

Issued by JPAC: 17 February 2020

Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 08 - 2020

Coronavirus Infection

These changes apply to the Whole Blood and Component and ALL the Tissue and Cells Donor Selection Guidelines

Please make the following changes to these sections of the Coronavirus Infection topic in all the guidelines

Includes SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome)
MERS (Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome)
~~Novel coronavirus~~ COVID-19 (due to infection with SARS-CoV-2 virus, previously known as Novel Coronavirus or 2019-nCoV)

Obligatory **Must not donate if:**

- a) Less than 21 days from a donor's return from a Coronavirus risk area (~~SARS, MERS, nCoV~~). This includes transit through an airport in a Coronavirus risk area, even if the traveller has not left the airport.
- b) Less than 21 days from the last contact with a person with Coronavirus infection (~~SARS, MERS, nCoV~~).
- c) Less than three months since recovery from Coronavirus infection (~~SARS, MERS, nCoV~~) or possible Coronavirus infection.

Additional Information This entry has been revised following reports of a cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan, China, in 2019-20. The causative agent of this outbreak is a novel coronavirus (~~2019-nCoV~~) (SARS-CoV-2).

Common coronaviruses cause colds and respiratory tract infections but are not considered a risk for transfusion recipients. Since 2002 there have been outbreaks in humans of new strains of coronavirus, associated with severe pulmonary infections and mortality rates of 10-35% e.g. SARS and MERS. There is no evidence at present that coronaviruses can be transmitted by blood transfusion and therefore these measures are precautionary.

\Continued

Reason for Change

The novel coronavirus responsible for the 2019-20 outbreak has been named SARS-CoV-2 and the associated disease has been named COVID-19. Clarification that coronavirus risk applies to airport stopovers.

A-Z index changes:

1. Add the following keyword:
 - COVID-19
 - SARS-CoV-2

Sheila MacLennan

Dr Sheila MacLennan
Professional Director - Joint UKBTS Professional Advisory Committee
☎ Direct Dial: (0113) 820 8638 ✉ sheila.maclennan@nhsbt.nhs.uk