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Implementation: To be determined by each Service

## Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 03 - 2020

### **SARS** Coronavirus Infection

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

Please make the following changes to the entry:

*Also Known As*

~~Severe acute respiratory syndrome~~

*Includes*

SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome)  
MERS (Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome)  
Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

*Excludes*

Common colds and other upper respiratory tract infections caused by coronaviruses, without a history of travel or contact with the infections listed above.

*Definition*

**Coronavirus risk areas:**  
These are specified in the 'Geographical Disease Risk Index' (GDRI)

*Obligatory*

**Must not donate if:**

- a) Less than 21 days from a donor's return from a Coronavirus risk area (SARS, MERS, nCoV). ~~leaving a country to which the Department of Health (DH) has advised deferring travel because there is, or is thought to be, ongoing transmission of SARS.~~
- b) Less than 21 days from the last contact with a person with Coronavirus infection (SARS, MERS, nCoV). ~~SARS.~~
- c) Less than three months since recovery from Coronavirus infection (SARS, MERS, nCoV) ~~SARS~~ or possible Coronavirus infection. ~~SARS.~~

*Discretionary*

If more than 21 days has passed since returning from a ~~SARS endemic~~ Coronavirus risk area, or from the last contact with a person affected by ~~SARS~~ Coronavirus and the donor has remained well, accept.

**\Continued**

*See if Relevant*

The 'Geographical Disease Risk Index'

*Additional Information*

~~In the event of re-emergence of SARS, donor deferral criteria will be urgently reviewed in the light of the most up-to-date scientific knowledge.~~  
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).

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 SARS coronaviruses can be transmitted by blood transfusion. ~~The implicated coronavirus genome can be found in plasma in patients suffering from SARS, although data are not yet available about the presence of virus in blood in the pre-symptomatic period.~~ and therefore these ~~These~~ measures are precautionary. ~~as there is no information at present to suggest that SARS can be transmitted by transfusion.~~

*Information*

This is a requirement of the Blood Safety and Quality Regulations 2005.

*Reason for Change*

~~The 'Additional Information' has been changed.~~ This entry has been renamed and reworded to include coronavirus infections described above.

## A-Z index changes:

1. Keep index entries for SARS and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
2. Add the following keywords:
  - MERS
  - Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome
  - Coronavirus Contact
  - Coronavirus Infection
  - CoV
  - Novel Coronavirus

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