Coronavirus Vaccination

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

Please make the following changes to the Coronavirus Infection topic, Appendix 2 Table of Immunizations and the Immunization – Non-Live topic:

Coronavirus Infection

5. Coronavirus Vaccination

Obligatory

a) Recipients of a Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine or the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, as part of in the UK vaccination programme

Must not donate if:
Less than seven days after the most recent immunization was given.

b) Recipients of any other a COVID-19 vaccine outside the UK vaccination programme, including participants in clinical trials

Must not donate if:
• Less than four weeks after the most recent immunization was given, or
• Still within any deferral period advised in the protocol for any clinical trial that the donor is enrolled in.

Refer to a Designated Clinical Support Officer if unsure.

Discretionary

Recipients of the Pfizer/BioNTech a COVID-19 vaccine or the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine (as part of the UK vaccination programme only), if:
• More than seven days after the most recent immunization was given, and
• the donor is well, with no ongoing local or systemic reaction to the vaccine, accept

\Continued
Additional Information

Individuals vaccinated with inactivated viruses or vaccines that do not contain live agents can usually be accepted without any deferral. Both the COVID-19 vaccines currently licensed in the UK, including the AstraZeneca, Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines, are non-live and as such do not pose a transfusion safety risk. Nevertheless, as these are new vaccines, a seven-day deferral after immunization is recommended to ensure donor and donation safety. This will also reduce the risk of a donation being discarded if a vaccine recipient develops symptoms directly related to the vaccine in the week after donation.

Several other coronavirus vaccines are currently under review by regulatory authorities in the UK and elsewhere. Donor selection guidelines will be updated reviewed if and when any new COVID-19 vaccine is approved for use in the UK.

Reason for Change

Addition of information on COVID-19 vaccination and a link to Immunization—Non-live. Entry updated to include all vaccines currently approved for the UK COVID-19 vaccination programme.

Appendix 2 – Table of Immunizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diseases Protected against</th>
<th>Comments and example trade names of adult preparations</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2)</td>
<td>Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine; AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine; Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. If more than 7 days from most recent immunization, accept.</td>
<td>Non-Live</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Immunization – Non-Live

Obligatory

1. Post Exposure:
   See: Immunization - 2. Post Exposure

2. Hepatitis B:
   Must not donate if:
   Less than seven days after administration

3. COVID-19 (Pfizer/BioNTech or AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine)
   See: Coronavirus Infection
   Must not donate if:
   Less than seven days after administration

\Continued
**Additional Information**

Sensitive assays for HBsAg may be positive following recent immunization. A positive result can lead to the donation being wasted, unnecessary tests and the need to contact the donor.

Note, hepatitis A immunization may be combined with hepatitis B immunization.

"Non-Live" immunizations do not use material that can cause infection. This means there is no risk to people receiving donated material from a recently immunized non-exposed donor.

As the Pfizer/BioNTech and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines are new, additional guidance is given for these. This is included in the Coronavirus Infection entry. A seven-day deferral is recommended to ensure donor and donation safety. This will also reduce the risk of a donation being discarded if a vaccine recipient develops symptoms directly related to the vaccine in the week after donation.

**Reason for change**

Addition Update of guidance for COVID-19 vaccination.

---

**Dr Sheila MacLennan**  
Professional Director - Joint UKBTS Professional Advisory Committee

📞 Direct Dial: (0113) 820 8638  
✉️ sheila.maclennan@nhsbt.nhs.uk