

Issued by JPAC: 23 January 2020

Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 05 - 2020

SARS Coronavirus Infection

These changes apply to all the Tissue and Cell Donor Selection Guidelines

Please make the following changes to the entry:

<i>Includes</i>	SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) MERS (Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome) Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)
<i>Excludes</i>	Common colds and other upper respiratory tract infections caused by coronaviruses, without a history of travel or contact with the infections listed above.
<i>Definition</i>	Coronavirus risk areas: These are specified in the 'Geographical Disease Risk Index' (GDRI)
<i>Obligatory</i>	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.
<i>Discretionary</i>	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. If less than 21 days has passed since returning from a Coronavirus risk area, or from the last contact with a person affected by Coronavirus, refer to designated clinical support officer. Donor may be accepted with individual risk assessment subject to expert microbiological advice

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See if Relevant

The 'Geographical Disease Risk Index'

Additional Information

~~Since 2004 there have not been any known cases of SARS reported anywhere in the world. Although the threat of SARS to public health seems to have passed, international health officials continue to remain vigilant. The World Health Organization (WHO) monitors countries throughout the world for any unusual disease activity.~~

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 coronaviruses can be transmitted by blood transfusion or tissue/cell transplantation and therefore these measures are precautionary.

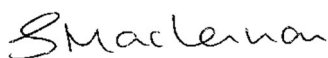
Reason for Change

~~Under 'Additional Information' the extant entry states "DH advice can be found at: www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAdviceForTravellers/fs/en under 'Latest health updates'." The site that this link used to go to no longer exists.~~

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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