

Issued by JPAC: 23 March 2020

Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 15 - 2020

Coronavirus Infection

These changes apply to the Bone Marrow & Peripheral Blood Stem Cells Donor Selection Guidelines

Please replace the current Coronavirus Infection topic with this entry:

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

Definition **Confirmed Infection:** If a diagnostic test has been performed and is positive, this constitutes a confirmed infection.

Suspected Infection: compatible symptoms as per UK GOV definition and who has not been tested in community or is awaiting test result in hospital. Case definitions for inpatients and community cases currently in use can be accessed at the UK Government website [here](#) and [here](#).

Recovery from Coronavirus symptoms: In line with Public Health England advice, donors can be considered to have recovered if they are well and free of fever and respiratory symptoms. Some individuals may have a persistent cough for some weeks after resolution of their infection.

1. Person with confirmed or suspected Coronavirus infection

Obligatory **Must not donate if less than 3 months** since resolution of symptoms

Discretionary (a) If **more than 3 months** have passed since resolution of symptoms, accept.

(b) If **less than 3 months** since resolution of symptoms : refer to designated clinical support officer for individual risk assessment, if donation is urgent and cannot be delayed.

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2. Contact with a confirmed or suspected case of Coronavirus infection

Obligatory Must not donate if:

Less than 28 days from the first day of contact with an individual with a confirmed or suspected infection.

- Discretionary**
- (a) If **more than 28 days** since the first day of contact with an individual with a confirmed or suspected infection, and the donor remained well with no symptoms of Coronavirus infection, accept.
- (b) If **less than 28 days** and donor remained well with no symptoms of Coronavirus infection, and if the donation is urgent and cannot be delayed for **28 days**, accept with individual risk assessment.

The donor should be advised to follow Public Health advice and take precautions to avoid infection in the **28 days** before donation.

Additional Information Common coronaviruses cause colds and respiratory tract infections but are not considered a specific risk for BM and PBSC transplant 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.

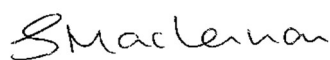
COVID-19 is an illness characterised by respiratory symptoms, including coughing and breathlessness, and fever. It is caused by infection with a newly identified Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2. Its full pathogenesis remains unknown but individuals with certain underlying chronic conditions, the elderly and immunocompromised individuals are at risk of more severe disease.

There is no evidence at present that coronaviruses can be transmitted by tissue/cell transplantation and therefore these measures are precautionary.

The deferral period for bone marrow & stem cell donation is longer than other tissue and cell donations taking donor safety into consideration.

Post donation illness Donors must be provided with information about contacting the registry co-ordinating their donation and the collection centre they donated at if they develop any illness within 14 days after donation.

Reason for Change This entry has been rewritten to take account of changes in the UK response to the 2020 COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic and guidance from EBMT and the WMDA. This entry replaces the previous entry.



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