

Issued by JPAC: 07 April 2022

Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 30 - 2022

Coronavirus Infection (COVID-19)

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

Please amend the following entries as shown.

Coronavirus Infection (Covid-19) Entry in the Deceased Tissue Donor Selection Guidelines

<i>Includes:</i>	<p>SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) MERS (Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome) COVID-19 disease (due to infection with SARS-CoV-2 virus, previously known as Novel Coronavirus or 2019-nCoV).</p>
<i>Definition:</i>	<p>Symptoms of Covid-19 coronavirus infection include: The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) infection are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent onset of a new, continuous cough • High temperature • Loss of, or a change in, normal sense of taste or smell <p>Testing: PCR (polymerase chain reaction) and rapid lateral flow tests (LFTs), usually by throat and/or nose swab, to detect the presence of SARS-CoV-2. This does not include testing for antibodies to SARS-CoV-2</p> <p>Confirmed Infection: The donor has had a positive test for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 (Coronavirus). usually by a throat and nose swab. This does not include tests for antibodies to Coronavirus.</p> <p>Suspected Infection: Compatible symptoms as per UK GOV definition given above below and who has not been tested or is awaiting test result.</p> <p>Recovery from Coronavirus symptoms: In line with Public Health England advice, donors can be considered to have</p>

	<p>recovered if they are well and free of fever and respiratory symptoms. Some individuals may have a cough or reduced sense of smell or taste for some weeks after resolution of their infection, but can be considered as recovered for the purposes of tissue and cell donation.</p>
<i>Note:</i>	<p>See 'Additional Information' section for European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) guidance on asymptomatic donors living or returning from areas of sustained community transmission.</p>
<p>1. Person with confirmed or suspected Covid-19 Coronavirus infection</p>	
<i>Obligatory:</i>	<p>Must not donate if:</p> <p>a. Less than 28 7 days since resolution of symptoms due to confirmed coronavirus Covid-19 infection.</p> <p>b. Awaiting test results for suspected Covid-19 coronavirus infection.</p>
<i>Discretionary:</i>	<p>a. Confirmed symptomatic infection (Covid-19) – if more than 28 7 days have passed since resolution of symptoms, accept.</p> <p>b. Confirmed SARS CoV-2 infection following diagnostic test without clinical symptoms - if more than 28 7 days have passed since most recent confirmed diagnostic test, accept</p> <p>c. Suspected Infection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If testing was not performed, and if more than 28 7 days after resolution of symptoms, accept. See Infection – Acute entry • If testing was performed, and Covid-19 coronavirus infection has been ruled out as a clinical diagnosis, see Infection – Acute entry <p>d. For respiratory symptoms/failure not related to infection, or where Coronavirus Covid-19 Infection was ruled out as a clinical diagnosis following testing, and if the underlying cause does not otherwise contradict donation, accept.</p> <p>See 'Additional Information' section below.</p>
<p>2. Contact with a confirmed or suspected case of Coronavirus infection</p>	
<i>Obligatory:</i>	<p>Must not donate if:</p> <p>Less than 10 days from the last day of contact with an individual with a confirmed or suspected infection.</p>
<i>Discretionary:</i>	<p>(a) If more than 10 days since the last day of contact with an individual with a confirmed or suspected infection, and the donor remained well with no symptoms of Coronavirus infection, accept.</p>

	<p>(b) If less than 10 days and the donor remained well, with no symptoms of Coronavirus infection, the donor may be accepted with individual risk assessment.</p> <hr/> <p>Donors without any symptoms of coronavirus infection, or not suspected to have, and have not been tested for COVID-19 infection, who were in intensive care units with other patients awaiting test results for suspected COVID-19 infection, and where these other patients were subsequently moved to isolation facilities following confirmation of infection, may be accepted subject to individual risk assessment.</p> <p>See 'Additional Information' section below.</p>
	<p>3. Donor undertaking travel related quarantine</p>
<i>Obligatory:</i>	<p>Must not donate if: Currently in government mandated quarantine. This advice changes frequently. See: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus for up to date information.</p>
<i>Discretionary:</i>	<p>Donor may be accepted subject to individual risk assessment. Consult with Designated Clinical Support Officer.</p>
<i>See if relevant:</i>	<p>Coronavirus Vaccination</p>
<i>Additional information</i>	<p>Common coronaviruses cause colds and respiratory tract infections but are not considered a risk for tissue 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Some persons with coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 infection may be asymptomatic. It is possible that they may have undergone testing for occupational health reasons (for example).</p> <p>Deceased tissue donors may have been subject to respiratory swab testing either on admission to hospital, or as organ donors. All organ donors are tested for SARS-CoV-2 on respiratory samples prior to donation. It is important to ascertain that, if the donor has been tested, the test was negative before proceeding with retrieval of tissues.</p> <p>If the donor has not been tested, but the donated tissue will undergo processing that the Tissue Establishment consider will effectively eliminate/inactivate any coronavirus that may be present in the donated tissues, the donation can be accepted.</p> <p>There is no evidence at present that SARS-CoV-2 coronaviruses can be transmitted by tissue/ cell transplantation and therefore these measures are considered to be precautionary.</p>

	This entry has been revised several times during the Covid-19 pandemic in response to evolving evidence and changes in public health and government advice. The guidance within this entry is focussed on Covid-19
<i>Reason for Change</i>	Add guidance related to travel related quarantine, update definition of 'confirmed infection', and update 'Additional Information' section. Reduction of deferral period following confirmed and suspected infection. The deferral period after contact with a case of COVID-19 and guidance regarding quarantine and travel have been removed

Coronavirus Infection (Covid-19) Entry in the Living Tissue and Cord Blood Donor Selection Guidelines

<i>Includes:</i>	SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) MERS (Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome) COVID-19 disease (due to infection with SARS-CoV-2 virus, previously known as Novel Coronavirus or 2019-nCoV).
<i>Definition:</i>	<p>Symptoms of Covid-19 coronavirus infection include: The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) infection are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent onset of a new, continuous cough • High temperature • Loss of, or a change in, normal sense of taste or smell <p>Testing: PCR (polymerase chain reaction) and rapid lateral flow tests (LFTs), usually by throat and/or nose swab, to detect the presence of SARS-CoV-2. This does not include testing for antibodies to SARS-CoV-2</p> <p>Confirmed Infection: The donor has had a positive test for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 (Coronavirus). usually by a throat and nose swab. This does not include tests for antibodies to Coronavirus.</p> <p>Suspected Infection: Compatible symptoms as per UK GOV definition given above below and who has not been tested or is awaiting test result.</p> <p>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 cough or reduced sense of smell or taste for some weeks after resolution of their infection, but can be considered as recovered for the purposes of tissue and cell donation.</p>

1. Person with confirmed symptomatic Covid-19 Coronavirus infection	
<i>Obligatory:</i>	Must not donate if less than 28 7 days since resolution of symptoms
<i>Discretionary:</i>	If more than 28 7 days have passed since resolution of symptoms, and the donor remains well, accept.
2. Person with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 Coronavirus infection without symptoms	
<i>Obligatory:</i>	Must not donate if less than 28 7 days since confirmation of infection by positive results in a diagnostic test.
<i>Discretionary:</i>	If more than 28 7 days have passed since confirmation of infection by positive results in a diagnostic test, accept. See additional information.
3. Person with suspected Covid-19 Coronavirus infection	
<i>Obligatory:</i>	Must not donate if less than 28 14 days since resolution of symptoms.
<i>Discretionary:</i>	a) If testing was not performed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> if more than 28 14 days have passed since resolution of symptoms, and the donor remains well, accept. If more than 7 days but less than 14 days, See Infection–Acute entry. or b) If testing was performed, and Covid-19 coronavirus infection has been ruled out as a clinical diagnosis, see Infection – Acute entry
4. Contact with a confirmed or suspected case of Coronavirus infection	
<i>Includes</i>	Individuals who had been advised to self-isolate following contact with a suspected or confirmed case of coronavirus infection.
<i>Obligatory:</i>	Must not donate if: Less than 10 days from the first day of isolation.
<i>Discretionary:</i>	a) If more than 10 days since the first day of isolation and the donor remains well, accept. b) If the donor has been advised that isolation is no longer required and the donor remains well, accept. c) If the donor has not been required to isolate and they remain well and they agree to report any post donation illness, accept.
5. Person requiring isolation or quarantine after travel	

<i>Obligatory:</i>	<p>Must not donate if: During the period of isolation or quarantine, as per current UK Government guidelines. See: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-advice-novel-coronavirus for up to date information. This applies to asymptomatic donors who have tested negative during the quarantine period. If donor develops symptoms or tests positive, see appropriate section above. See Additional Information.</p>
<i>See if relevant:</i>	<p>Coronavirus Vaccination Infection: Acute</p>
<i>Additional information</i>	<p>Common coronaviruses cause colds and respiratory tract infections but are not considered a risk for tissue 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Some persons with coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 infection may be asymptomatic. It is possible that they may have undergone testing for occupational health reasons (for example). Routine screening of living asymptomatic tissue/cell donors is not necessary. They are likely to have been screened before hospital admission for a planned procedure as per hospital policy.</p> <p>Donors who have travelled may be required to self-isolate (also termed quarantine) on their entry into the UK. This will depend on country or area of a country travelled from, and when the entry into the UK occurred. Donors will be aware of the UK border rules at the time of their travel.</p> <p>There is no evidence at present that SARS-CoV-2 coronaviruses can be transmitted by tissue/ cell transplantation and therefore these measures are considered to be precautionary.</p> <p>This entry has been revised several times during the Covid-19 pandemic in response to evolving evidence and changes in public health and government advice. The guidance within this entry is focussed on Covid-19. Donors who report infection or contact should be referred to a designated clinical support officer.</p>
<i>Post Donation Illness</i>	<p>Donors must be provided with information about contacting the tissue establishment if they develop any illness within 14 days after donation</p>
<i>Reason for Change</i>	<p>Update guidance relating to suspected infection, update definition of 'confirmed infection' and addition of guidance and information relating to travel. Reduction of deferral period after confirmed and suspected infection. The deferral period after contact with a case of COVID-19 and guidance regarding quarantine and travel have been removed</p>

Coronavirus Infection (Covid-19) Entry in the Bone Marrow and Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Donor Selection Guidelines

Includes:	<p>SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) MERS (Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome) COVID-19 disease (due to infection with SARS-CoV-2 virus, previously known as Novel Coronavirus or 2019-nCoV).</p>
Definition:	<p>Symptoms of Covid-19 coronavirus infection include: The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) infection are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent onset of a new, continuous cough • High temperature • Loss of, or a change in, normal sense of taste or smell <p>Testing: PCR (polymerase chain reaction) and rapid lateral flow tests (LFTs), usually by throat and/or nose swab, to detect the presence of SARS-CoV-2. This does not include testing for antibodies to SARS-CoV-2</p> <p>Confirmed Infection: The donor has had a positive test for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 (Coronavirus). usually by a throat and nose swab. This does not include tests for antibodies to Coronavirus.</p> <p>Suspected Infection: Compatible symptoms as per UK GOV definition given above below and who has not been tested or is awaiting test result.</p> <p>Recovery from Coronavirus Covid-19 symptoms: Donors can be considered to have recovered if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are generally well and back to normal activities • Do not have continuing fatigue which affects daily activities • Do not have a fever • Do not have respiratory symptoms (except for a persistent mild cough) • Are not experiencing cardiac symptoms (e.g. chest pain, palpitations) • Are not experiencing any other symptoms e.g. peripheral neurological symptoms in upper or lower limbs, central neurological symptoms such as headache, dizziness. <p>Some individuals may have a cough or reduced sense of smell or taste for some weeks after resolution of their infection, but can be considered as recovered for the purposes of tissue and cell donation.</p>
<p>1. Person with confirmed symptomatic Covid-19 Coronavirus infection</p>	
Obligatory:	<p>Must not donate if less than 28 14 days since resolution of symptoms</p>

<i>Discretionary:</i>	<p>a. If more than 28 14 days have passed since resolution of symptoms, accept.</p> <p>b. If less than 28 14 days since resolution of symptoms: refer to designated clinical support officer for individual risk assessment, if donation is urgent and cannot be delayed.</p> <p>See additional information.</p>
2. Person with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 Coronavirus infection without symptoms	
<i>Obligatory:</i>	Must not donate if less than 28 14 days since confirmation of infection by positive results in a diagnostic test.
<i>Discretionary:</i>	<p>If less than 28 14 days have passed since confirmation of infection by positive results in a diagnostic test, refer to designated clinical support officer for individual risk assessment, if donation is urgent and cannot be delayed.</p> <p>See additional information.</p>
3. Person with suspected Covid-19 Coronavirus infection	
<i>Discretionary:</i>	<p>a) If more than 14 days have passed since resolution of symptoms, and donor has been tested and advised they do not have Covid-19 coronavirus infection, and the donor remains well, accept.</p> <p>b. If less than 14 days have passed since resolution of symptoms, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donor has been tested and advised they do not have Covid-19 coronavirus infection, and the donor remains well, refer to designated clinical support officer. <li style="text-align: center;">OR • c. If less than 28 days since resolution of symptoms, and If the donor has not been tested to exclude the diagnosis of Covid-19 coronavirus infection. <p>Refer to designated clinical support officer for advice</p>
4. Contact with a confirmed or suspected case of Coronavirus infection	
<i>Includes</i>	Individuals who had been advised to self-isolate following contact with a suspected or confirmed case of coronavirus infection.
<i>Obligatory:</i>	Must not donate if: Less than 10 days from the first day of isolation.

<p><i>Discretionary:</i></p>	<p>a) If more than 10 days since the first day of isolation and the donor remains well, accept.</p> <p>b) If the donor has been advised that isolation is no longer required and the donor remains well, accept.</p> <p>c) If the donor has not been required to isolate and they remain well and they agree to report any post donation illness, accept.</p> <p>The donor should be advised to follow Public Health advice and take precautions to avoid infection in the 10 days before donation.</p>
<p>5. Person requiring isolation or quarantine after travel</p>	
<p><i>Obligatory:</i></p>	<p>Must not donate: During the period of isolation or quarantine as per current UK Government guidelines. This applies to asymptomatic donors who have tested negative during the quarantine period.</p> <p>If donor develops symptoms or tests positive, see appropriate section above</p> <p>See additional information.</p>
<p><i>See if relevant:</i></p>	<p>Coronavirus Vaccination Infection: Acute</p>
<p><i>Additional information</i></p>	<p>Common coronaviruses cause colds and respiratory tract infections but are not considered a risk for tissue 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Some persons with coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 infection may be asymptomatic. It is possible that they may have undergone testing for occupational health reasons (for example).</p> <p>Some individuals will have symptoms for a protracted length of time after the systemic and respiratory symptoms of the acute infection have resolved. A wide range of symptoms, including cardiac and neurological, have been reported. It is important to identify any of the specific ongoing symptoms such as chest pain, palpitations, shortness of breath, fatigue, even if seemingly mild or infrequent, that suggest that a donor may not have fully recovered to their pre-COVID-19 state of health, and that may put a donor at risk of an adverse event.</p> <p>Donors who have travelled may be required to self-isolate (also termed quarantine) on their entry into the UK. This will depend on country or area of a country travelled from, and when the entry into the UK occurred. Donors will be aware of the UK border rules at the time of their travel. Some donors may be</p>

	<p>exempt from self-isolation due to the jobs they do, and these donors would need individual risk assessment for donating stem cells.</p> <p>It is recommended that all bone marrow and peripheral blood stem cell donors, including those without symptoms or diagnosis of COVID 19 living in, or who have visited areas of sustained community transmission, are tested for the presence of viral RNA before donation. Donor must have tested negative for the presence of the viral RNA in the upper respiratory tract.</p> <p>There is no evidence at present that SARS-CoV-2 coronaviruses can be transmitted by tissue/ cell transplantation and therefore these measures are considered to be precautionary.</p> <p>This entry has been revised several times during the Covid-19 pandemic in response to evolving evidence and changes in public health and government advice. The guidance within this entry is focussed on Covid-19. Donors who report infection or contact should be referred to a designated clinical support officer.</p> <p>Further guidance has been provided by the British Society for Bone Marrow Transplantation, and is available at: http://www.bsbmtct.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/BSBMTCT-recommendations-for-COVID_May2020_ver3.0-FINAL.pdf https://bsbmtct.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/BSBMTCT-COVID-19-Guidelines-8.0_24th_December_2021_FINAL.pdf</p>
<p><i>Post Donation Illness</i></p>	<p>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.</p>
<p><i>Reason for Change</i></p>	<p>Change in deferral period for donors with confirmed or suspected coronavirus infection and contact with confirmed or suspected infection. Refinement of the definitions for 'confirmed infection,' and 'recovery from coronavirus symptoms' (to include 'long COVID'). Guidance relating to travel related quarantine added and additional information section updated.</p> <p>Reduction of deferral period after confirmed and suspected infection. The deferral period after contact with a case of COVID-19 and guidance regarding quarantine and travel have been removed</p>

SmacLennan

Dr Sheila MacLennan
Professional Director - Joint UKBTS Professional Advisory Committee
 ✉ sheila.maclennan@nhsbt.nhs.uk