

Issued by JPAC: 30 August 2022

Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 51 - 2022

Coronavirus Infection (COVID-19)

These changes apply to all of the Tissues & Cells Donor Selection Guidelines.

Please amend the following entry.

Bone Marrow & Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Donor Selection Guidelines.

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| <i>Includes</i> | 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 include:</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).</p> <p>Suspected Infection: Compatible symptoms as per UK GOV definition given above and who has not been tested or is awaiting test result.</p> <p>Recovery from 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, |

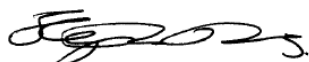
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| | central neurological symptoms such as headache, dizziness. Some individuals may have a cough or reduced sense of smell or taste for some weeks after resolution of their infection, but can be considered as recovered for the purposes of tissue and cell donation. |
| 1. Person with confirmed symptomatic COVID-19 | |
| Obligatory | Must not donate if less than 14 days since resolution of symptoms |
| Discretionary | a. If more than 14 days have passed since resolution of symptoms, accept. b. If less than 14 days since resolution of symptoms: refer to designated clinical support officer for individual risk assessment, if donation is urgent and cannot be delayed. See additional information. |
| 2. Person with confirmed SARS-CoV-2 | |
| Obligatory | Must not donate if less than 14 days since confirmation of infection by positive results in a diagnostic test. |
| Discretionary | If less than 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. See additional information. |
| 3. Person with suspected COVID-19 | |
| <i>Discretionary</i> | 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, and the donor remains well, accept. b. If less than 14 days have passed since resolution of symptoms, and: • Donor has been tested and advised they do not have COVID-19, and the donor remains well. OR • If the donor has not been tested to exclude the diagnosis of COVID-19. Refer to designated clinical support officer for advice |
| <i>See if Relevant</i> | Coronavirus Vaccination Infection: Acute Contact with Infectious Disease |
| <i>Additional Information</i> | 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 |

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| | <p>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 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>It is recommended that all bone marrow and peripheral blood stem cell donors, including those without symptoms or diagnosis of COVID 19 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 can be transmitted by tissue/ cell transplantation and therefore these measures are considered to be precautionary.</p> <p>For Bone Marrow (HPC-M) donations, donation should be scheduled in accordance with current guidance from the Royal College of Surgeons and Association of Anaesthetists and in discussion with the collection centre.</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: https://bsbmtct.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/BSBMTCT-COVID-19-Guidelines-8.0-24th-December-2021-FINAL.pdf</p> |
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| <i>Post Donation Illness</i> | 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. |
| <i>Reason for Change</i> | 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. To add information regarding the Royal College of Anaesthetists guidance, delete link to BSBMT guidance, and add link to 'Contact with Infectious Disease' entry in 'See if Relevant' section. |

Cord Blood, Deceased and Living Tissue Donor Selection Guidelines

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| <i>See if Relevant</i> | Coronavirus Vaccination Infection: Acute Contact with Infectious Disease |
| <i>Reason for Change</i> | 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. Addition of links to the 'Infection: Acute' and 'Contact with Infectious Disease' entries in the 'See if Relevant' section. |



Dr Stephen Thomas
Professional Director - Joint UKBTS Professional Advisory Committee
✉ stephen.thomas@nhsbt.nhs.uk