

Issued by JPAC: 19 January 2021

Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 57 - 2020

Viral Haemorrhagic Fever

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

Please make the following changes:

Definitions

Includes Crimean-Congo Fever, Ebola Virus Disease, Lassa Fever and Marburg Fever.

Viral Haemorrhagic Fever Endemic Areas are shown in the 'Geographical Disease Risk Index' (GDRI) as a Viral Haemorrhagic Fever Risk. Outbreak information is also listed but is not required for Whole Blood and Components Donor Selection Guideline users.

1. Affected Individual

Obligatory

Must not donate if:
Ever diagnosed with a Viral Haemorrhagic Fever.

2. Contact or traveller to endemic country

Obligatory

Must not donate if:
Less than 6 months from last contact with an affected individual or travel to an endemic country.

Discretionary

If more than 6 months from last contact, completion of investigations or return to the UK from endemic country, accept.

3. Sexual Partners of Affected Individuals

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

The donor has had sex with an individual who had been diagnosed with a Viral Haemorrhagic Fever at any time before their last sexual contact.

See if Relevant

The Geographical Disease Risk Index for countries with a current endemic Viral Haemorrhagic Fever risk.

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Additional Information

~~These infections have very high death rates and there is evidence that the virus may persist for some time after recovery.~~
There is evidence of persistent virus in individuals who recover from several forms of Viral Haemorrhagic Fever. For this reason, it is necessary to defer the sexual partners of these individuals.

Reason for change

~~Guidance for travellers to endemic countries and contacts with these infections has been updated.~~
A permanent deferral has been introduced for donors who have had sex with an individual who has been diagnosed with a Viral Haemorrhagic Fever.

Please also make the following A-Z Index changes:

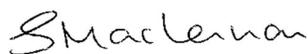
'Lassa Fever – Contact With' redirected to this entry
'Marburg Fever – Contact With' redirected to this entry

Add entries:

'Crimean-Congo Fever' and 'Crimean-Congo Fever – Contact With' to direct to this entry

Remove the following entries:

'Congo Fever - Infection'
'Congo Fever – Contact With'
'Crimean Fever - Infection'
'Crimean Fever – Contact With'



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