

Coronavirus Infection

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)

Excludes: Common colds and other upper respiratory tract
infections caused by coronaviruses, without a history of
travel or contact with the infections listed above.

Definition: **Coronavirus risk areas:**
These are specified in the 'Geographical Disease Risk
Index (/dsg/gdri)' (GDRI)

Obligatory: **Must not donate if:**

a) Less than 28 days from a donor's return from a
Coronavirus risk area. This includes transit through an
airport in a Coronavirus risk area, even if the traveller
has not left the airport.

b) Less than 28 days from the last contact with a
person with Coronavirus infection.

c) Less than 28 days since recovery from Coronavirus
infection or possible Coronavirus infection.

Discretionary: If more than 28 days has passed since:

- returning from a Coronavirus risk area, and/or
- last contact with a person affected by Coronavirus,
and/or
- recovery from proven or presumed Coronavirus
infection

and the donor has remained well, accept.

See if Relevant: The 'Geographical Disease Risk Index' (/dsg/gdri)

Additional Information: 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 (SARS-CoV-2).

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 and therefore
these measures are precautionary.

Information: This is a requirement of the Blood Safety and Quality
Regulations 2005.

Reason for change: The deferral after travel and recovery have been
changed in line with revised European Centre for
Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) guidance.

Update Information

This entry was last updated in:
DSG-WB Edition 203, Release 47

