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Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 21 - 2021

Coronavirus Infection

This change applies to the Bone Marrow and Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Donor Selection Guidelines

Please amend the following sections of this entry:

<i>Definition:</i>	<p>Confirmed Infection: If a diagnostic test has been performed and is positive, this constitutes a confirmed infection. The donor has had a positive test for the presence of 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 below and who has not been tested or is awaiting test result.</p> <p>Symptoms of coronavirus infection: 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 sense of taste or smell <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.</p> <p>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>
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1. Person with confirmed symptomatic Coronavirus infection	
<i>Obligatory:</i>	Must not donate if less than 28 days 3 months since resolution of symptoms.
<i>Discretionary:</i>	<p>a. If more than 28 days 3 months have passed since resolution of symptoms, accept.</p> <p>b. If less than 28 days 3 months 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 Coronavirus infection without symptoms	
<i>Obligatory:</i>	Must not donate if less than 28 days 3 months since confirmation of infection by positive results in a diagnostic test.
<i>Discretionary:</i>	<p>If less than 28 days 3 months 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 Coronavirus infection	
<i>Obligatory:</i>	Must not donate if less than 3 months since resolution of symptoms.
<i>Discretionary:</i>	<p>a. If more than 3 months have passed since resolution of symptoms, accept.</p> <p>a. If more than 14 days have passed since resolution of symptoms, and donor has been tested and advised they do not have coronavirus infection, and the donor remains well, accept.</p> <p>b. If less than 14 days have passed since resolution of symptoms, and donor has been tested and advised they do not have coronavirus infection, and the donor remains well, refer to designated clinical support officer.</p> <p>c. b. If less than 28 days 3 months since resolution of symptoms, and if the donor has not been tested to exclude the diagnosis of coronavirus infection, refer to designated clinical support officer for advice. for individual risk assessment. if donation is urgent and cannot be delayed.</p> <p>or</p> <p>b c) If more than 14 days have passed since resolution of symptoms, and donor has been tested and advised they do not have coronavirus infection, and the donor remains well, accept.</p>

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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 with a suspected or confirmed case of coronavirus infection.
<i>Obligatory:</i>	Must not donate if: Less than 10 28 days from the first day of isolation. contact with an individual with a confirmed or suspected infection.
<i>Discretionary:</i>	<p>(a) If more than 28 days from 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.</p> <p>(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.</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 28 days before donation.</p>

5. Person requiring isolation or quarantine after travel

<i>Obligatory:</i>	<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>
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<i>See if Relevant:</i>	<p>Coronavirus Vaccination</p> <p>Infection: Acute</p>
<i>Additional Information:</i>	<p>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.</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>

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	<p>Some persons with coronavirus 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 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 coronaviruses can be transmitted by tissue/cell transplantation and therefore these measures are precautionary.</p> <p>ECDC guidance suggests that donors recovering from confirmed infection may donate stem cells at least 14 days after laboratory evidence of clearance of viral RNA from the upper respiratory tract or 28 days after symptom resolution, at the discretion of the designated medical officer, if the donation cannot be delayed. However in the current entry the deferral period for bone marrow & stem cell donation is longer than other tissue and cell donations taking donor safety into consideration.</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</p>
<p><i>Reason for Change:</i></p>	<p>To add a "See if Relevant" section with link to new the Coronavirus Vaccination entry. 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>

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