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Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 16 - 2020

Coronavirus Infection

These changes apply to the Deceased Tissue Donor Selection Guidelines

Please replace the current Coronavirus Infection topic with this entry:

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)

Definition **Confirmed Infection:** If a diagnostic test has been performed and is positive, this constitutes a confirmed infection.

Suspected Infection: compatible symptoms as per UK GOV definition and who has not been tested in community or is awaiting test result in hospital. Case definitions for inpatients and community cases currently in use can be accessed at the UK Government website [here](#) and [here](#)

Recovery from Coronavirus symptoms:

In line with Public Health England advice, donors can be considered to have recovered if they were free of fever and respiratory symptoms at the time of death. Some individuals may have had a persistent cough for some weeks after resolution of their infection.

1. Person with confirmed or suspected Coronavirus infection

Obligatory **Must not donate if:**

(a) **Less than 14 days** since resolution of symptoms due to confirmed coronavirus infection.

(b) Awaiting test results for suspected coronavirus infection

Discretionary (a) Confirmed infection – if **more than 14 days** have passed since resolution of symptoms, accept.

(b) For respiratory failure not related to viral infection, or where COVID-19 was ruled out following testing, accept

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2. Contact with a confirmed or suspected case of Coronavirus infection

Obligatory **Must not donate if:**

Less than 14 days from the first day of contact with an individual with a confirmed or suspected infection.

Discretionary (a) If **more than 14 days** since 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.

(b) If **less than 14 days** and the donor remained well, with no symptoms of Coronavirus infection, the donor may be accepted with individual risk assessment.

Donors **without** any respiratory symptoms who are not suspected to have, and have not been tested for COVID-19 infection, and who were in intensive care units with patients who had been tested for COVID-19 infection and subsequently moved to isolation facilities following confirmation of infection, may be accepted subject to individual risk assessment.

Additional Information 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.

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

There is no evidence at present that coronaviruses can be transmitted by or tissue/ cell transplantation and therefore these measures are precautionary.

Reason for Change This entry has been rewritten to take account of changes in the UK response to the 2020 COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. This entry replaces the previous entry.

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