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:
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