



To: Transfusion Lab Managers, Transfusion Practitioners cc. Consultant Haematologists

**RE: Queries regarding the vaccination status of donors**

14/08/2023

Dear Colleague,

We are aware that there have been a number of queries over the last few months regarding the vaccination status of blood donors. These most commonly relate to vaccination against coronavirus, but the same principles are true for other vaccinations. Some patients have expressed reticence to receive blood from vaccinated donors. Please see the following information which can be used to respond to these queries. The most pertinent is probably the third link under section 1 below: [COVID-19 Vaccines and Blood Transfusion \(including Pre-deposit Autologous and Directed Donations\) \(July 2023\)](#)

1. The Joint United Kingdom Professional Advisory Committee for Blood Transfusion and Tissue Transplantation Services (JPAC) provides advice on any deferral period following vaccination / immunisation that should be applied before an individual can donate.

<https://www.transfusionguidelines.org/dsg/wb/guidelines/im001-immunization>

This states that donors cannot donate blood within 48 hours of coronavirus vaccination, but after that time, if they are well, they can donate. The blood services do not ask donors to disclose if they have had a vaccination after this time. Please see section 5. SARS-CoV-2 (Coronavirus Vaccination):

<https://www.transfusionguidelines.org/dsg/wb/guidelines/coronavirus-infection>

An updated position statement regarding coronavirus vaccination was produced in July 2023 referring to requests for blood from donors who had not been vaccinated, autologous pre-deposit donation and directed donations. This explains why none of these options are available for this indication.

[COVID-19 Vaccines and Blood Transfusion \(including Pre-deposit Autologous and Directed Donations\) \(July 2023\)](#)

2. Advice from the MHRA and from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/suspected-adverse-reactions-covid-19-vaccinationand-safety-substances-human>) states that no additional blood and plasma safety measures are recommended in relation to the occurrence of suspected adverse reactions to COVID-19 vaccines and that individuals vaccinated with inactivated / killed viruses or vaccines that do not contain live agents (such as mRNA vaccines and replication-deficient virus vector based vaccines) may be accepted as donors provided they feel well.
3. Joint statement from the AABB, ABC & ARC blood services in the USA issuing the following statement <https://www.aabb.org/news-resources/news/article/2023/01/30/blood-community-issues-new-joint-statement-to-combat-misinformation-regarding-vaccines-and-the-blood-supply>

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg. Correspondence is welcomed in Welsh.



Also to reiterate the UK Blood Services, in common with other blood services internationally, cannot provide information about the vaccine status of donors to recipients, nor is this necessary from a safety or efficacy perspective.

If you have any queries, please contact the Blood Health Team (BHT) at [WBS.BloodHealthTeam@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:WBS.BloodHealthTeam@wales.nhs.uk).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Massey', is located below the text 'Yours sincerely,'.

Dr Edwin Massey, WBS Medical Director