



To: Transfusion Lab Managers, Transfusion Practitioners, Consultant Haematologists responsible for transfusion, and Hospital Transfusion Committee chairs

RE: Vaccination status of blood donors

08/01/2025

Dear Colleague,

We are aware that there continue to be queries 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.

- 1) The most pertinent is probably the updated September 2024 statement from the Joint United Kingdom Professional Advisory Committee for Blood Transfusion and Tissue Transplantation Services (JPAC) referring to requests for blood from donors who had not been vaccinated, pre-deposit autologous and directed donations. This explains why none of these options are available for this indication.
<https://www.transfusionguidelines.org/document-library/documents/jpac-position-statement-on-covid-19-vaccines-and-blood-transfusion-incl-pad-and-dd-september-2024/>
- 2) JPAC also 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>. There is no longer a deferral period for donors who have had a coronavirus vaccination.

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

Yours sincerely,

Edwin Massey, Welsh Blood Service Medical Director