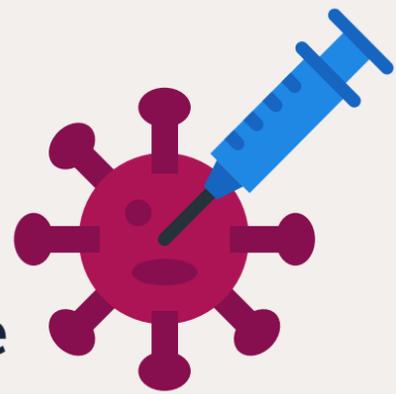


COVID-19:

Vaccinations and the Blood Service



Donors

Can a person donate after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes, but there may be a deferral period as directed by the local blood authorities.

Donors will need to wait to make sure there have been no side effects from vaccination before donating. If they have experienced any side effects from the vaccine, donation should not occur until fully recovered.

If the vaccination date is known, the donor could consider donating in the days before, or scheduling a donation at least a week after vaccination.



Why wait?

The COVID-19 vaccine may cause minor side effects such as a mild fever. A wait time of 7 days currently applies to all non-live COVID-19 vaccinations, regardless of which vaccine donors receive. COVID-19 vaccine studies show most temporary symptoms occur up to two to three days post vaccination and are resolved within a week.



For a full list of recommended deferral periods, please refer to the WHO guidance document "Maintaining a safe and adequate blood supply and collecting convalescent plasma in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic".

Blood Availability

To ensure there is minimal impact on the availability of blood donors, blood centres and local health authorities should work closely when mass vaccinations are being planned.

The blood service may need to consider the potential impact of appointment cancellations, and communicate with donors to plan blood donations ahead of receiving vaccinations.



Staffing

Consider staggering vaccinations across staff in various departments of the blood centre to ensure there is coverage to perform essential duties both while staff are absent receiving the vaccine, and to cover any possible adverse reactions from receiving the vaccine.

