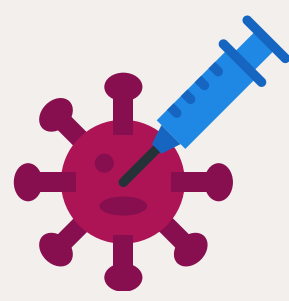




COVID-19:

Vaccinations and the Blood Program



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

Yes, but there may be a wait period (known as a deferral), as directed by the local blood authorities. Include any information about deferrals in donor and community messaging, to let donors know!

Donors will need to wait to make sure they feel well after vaccination before donating. If they have experienced any side effects from the vaccine, donation should not go ahead until they have fully recovered.

If the vaccination date is known, the donor could always consider donating before being vaccinated, to be sure they are able to.



Why wait?

The COVID-19 vaccine may cause minor side effects such as a mild fever. COVID-19 vaccine studies show most temporary symptoms occur up to two to three days post vaccination and are usually resolved within a week.

Deferral periods vary depending on the type of vaccine received (e.g. mRNA or live virus vaccine).

For a full list of post vaccination deferral periods, please refer to the [WHO guidance document](#)

Blood Availability

To minimise impact on the attendance of blood donors, blood centres should work closely with local health authorities when mass vaccinations are being planned.

Consider the potential impact of appointment cancellations, and advise donors to plan blood donations before receiving their vaccine.



Staffing

Vaccinations can cause some minor side effects, such as flu-like symptoms. Consider staggering vaccinations for staff, to be able to accommodate any absences post vaccination, and ensure there are enough people to perform all essential duties across all areas. This will minimise impact on core operations and blood supply.



Please refer to the WHO Technical Guidance publication: [Maintaining a safe and adequate blood supply and collecting convalescent plasma in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic](#)