

Blood Donor Educational Material

READ THIS BEFORE YOU DONATE!



We know that you would not donate unless you think your blood is safe. However, in order for us to assess all risks that may affect you or a patient receiving a transfusion, it is essential that you answer each question completely and accurately. If you don't understand a question, ask the blood center staff. All information you provide is confidential.

To determine if you are eligible to donate we will:

- ❖ Ask about your health and travel
- ❖ Ask about medicines you are taking or have taken
- ❖ Ask about your risk for infections that can be transmitted by blood – especially AIDS and viral hepatitis
- ❖ Take your blood pressure, temperature and pulse
- ❖ Take a blood sample to be sure your blood count is acceptable

If you are eligible to donate we will:

- ❖ Clean your arm with an antiseptic. Tell us if you have any skin allergies
- ❖ Use a new, sterile, disposable needle to collect your blood

DONOR ELIGIBILITY – SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Certain diseases, such as AIDS and hepatitis, can be spread through sexual contact and enter your bloodstream. We will ask specific questions about sexual contact.

What do we mean by “sexual contact?”

The words “have sexual contact with” and “sex” are used in some of the questions we will ask you, and apply to any of the activities below, whether or not a condom or other protection was used:

- ❖ Vaginal sex (contact between penis and vagina)
- ❖ Oral sex (mouth or tongue on someone's vagina, penis, or anus)
- ❖ Anal sex (contact between penis and anus)

HIV/AIDS risk behaviors

HIV is the virus that causes AIDS. It is spread mainly by sexual contact with an infected person OR by sharing needles or syringes used by an infected person for injecting drugs.

Do not donate if you:

- ❖ Have AIDS or have ever had a positive HIV test
- ❖ Have EVER used needles to take any drugs not prescribed by your doctor
- ❖ Are a male who has had sexual contact with another male, **IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS**
- ❖ Have EVER taken money, drugs or other payment for sex
- ❖ Have had sexual contact in **IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS** with anyone described above
- ❖ Have had syphilis or gonorrhea **IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS**
- ❖ Have been in juvenile detention, lockup, jail or prison for more than 72 consecutive hours **IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS**

Your blood can transmit infections, including HIV/AIDS, even if you feel well and all your tests are normal. This is because even the best tests cannot detect the virus for a period of time after you are infected.

DO NOT donate to get a test! If you think you may be at risk for HIV/AIDS or any other infection, do not donate simply to get a test. Ask us where you can be tested outside the blood center.

The following symptoms can be present before an HIV test turns positive:

- ❖ Fever
- ❖ Enlarged lymph glands
- ❖ Sore throat
- ❖ Rash

DO NOT donate if you have these symptoms!

Travel to or birth in other countries

Blood donor tests may not be available for some infections that are found only in certain countries. If you were born in, have lived in, or visited certain countries, you may not be eligible to donate.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOUR DONATION

To protect patients, your blood is tested for several types of hepatitis, HIV, syphilis, and other infections. If your blood tests positive it will not be given to a patient. There are times when your blood is not tested. If this occurs, you may not receive any notification. You will be notified about any positive test result which may disqualify you from donating in the future. The blood center will not release your test results without your written permission unless required by law (e.g. to the Health Department).

Do not donate if you:

- ❖ Have EVER had Ebola virus disease or infection.

THANK YOU FOR DONATING BLOOD TODAY!

**For further information and to speak with BloodCenter staff, please call:
1-877-BE-A-HERO.**

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List of Countries at risk for Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD)

vCJD countries of risk - United Kingdom

Channel Islands
England
Falkland Islands
Gibraltar
Isle of Man
Northern Ireland
Scotland
Wales

vCJD countries of risk -Europe

Albania
Austria
Belgium
Bosnia-Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Czech Republic
Denmark
Finland
France, including its overseas departments (e.g., Martinique and others)
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Republic of Ireland
Italy
Kosovo
Liechtenstein
Luxembourg
Macedonia
Montenegro
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal, including the Azores
Romania
Serbia
Slovak Republic
Slovenia
Spain, including the Canary Islands and Spanish North African territories
Sweden
Switzerland
Yugoslavia (or the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia)