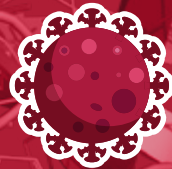
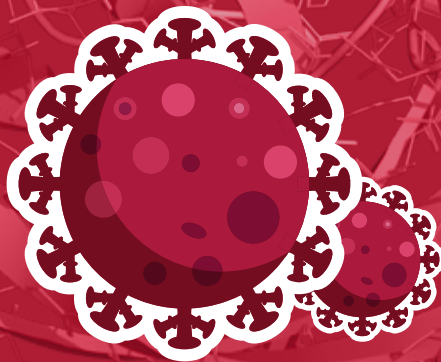
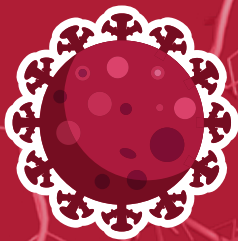




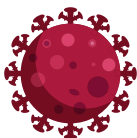
# Coronavirus:

Important information for donors



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# Coronavirus:

## Important information for donors

The outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) has caused a lot of questions about the risk of exposure and the effect of the virus on blood.

The Western Cape Blood Service (WCBS) would like to appeal to all our healthy donors to please continue to donate blood. The WCBS would like to assure donors that blood donation is a safe and sterile procedure.

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) cannot be transmitted through a blood transfusion as respiratory viruses are generally not known to be transmitted by donation or transfusion.



# Can you still donate blood **during the national lockdown?**

The need for blood never stops. Travelling to donate blood is considered essential travel during the national lockdown.

We urge donors to continue to save lives.



# What is the WCBS doing **to keep donors safe?**

Clinic staff have always maintained a high level of hand hygiene. Staff sanitise their hands regularly with soap and water in addition to using hand sanitiser before and after each encounter with a donor.

Hand sanitiser is freely available for blood donors and staff to use at blood donation clinics. All donors will need to sanitise their hands before entering a clinic.

Staff have been instructed to avoid close contact with people who are sick, and to stay at home when they are sick.

Cleaning and disinfection procedures for frequently used objects and surfaces have been enhanced.



# Do staff and donors **where face masks?**

Staff wear compulsory personal protection equipment (PPE) such as face masks. Staff, particularly those who have close contact with donors at the time of the COVID screening, fingerprick testing and blood collection, have been supplied with masks and visors to cover their nose and mouth.

All donors must wear a face mask when donating blood.



# When should I **not donate blood?**

Routine donor health assessment measures that are in place will prevent individuals with clinical respiratory infections from donating blood. For example, blood donors must be in good health on the day of donation, and be clear for any risk factors surveyed by the blood donor questionnaire.

## **Do not donate blood for 14 days after:**

- Your last close contact with a person diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID-19.
- Your resolution of symptoms after having COVID-19.

Please note that healthcare workers who are treating or working with COVID-19 positive patients you will not be able to donate.



# Can COVID-19 be **transmitted through a blood transfusion?**

There is currently no reason to suspect that COVID-19 can be transmitted through blood transfusion. This is based on the fact that respiratory viruses, in general, are not known to be transmitted by blood transfusion, and there have been no reported cases of transfusion-transmitted coronavirus.



# Is my blood tested for COVID-19?

The WCBS does not test for the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Diagnostic tests for COVID-19 are not done on blood, but on throat swabs and sputum samples.

If you are feeling unwell or exhibiting any clinical symptoms of infection (fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat and shortness of breath), please seek medical attention or contact the NICD hotline on 0800 029 999.





# What should I do if I am **diagnosed with COVID-19 after donating blood?**

Should you develop Coronavirus infection within 28 days of donating blood, please urgently contact the WCBS Medical Staff on (021) 507 6319, 507 6320, or 507 6329.



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[www.wcbs.org.za](http://www.wcbs.org.za)