

## **GUIDELINE FOR BLOOD DONATION ACTIVITY AND DONOR SELECTION CRITERIA FOR THE CURRENT COVID-19 OUTBREAK SITUATION IN MALAYSIA**

- A. **Before** a blood donation activity is held, the National Blood Centre (NBC) and respective state and district blood banks should ensure:
1. Continuous education & promotion to increase awareness of the public as well as potential blood donors with regards to:
    - Importance of continuous blood supply as a crucial element in the treatment of patients in hospitals;
    - Practice of good personal hygiene especially regular hand washing with soap and water or hand sanitizers, as well as the proper cough and sneeze etiquette;
    - Importance of social distancing ie. at least 1 metre between individuals;
    - To advice that only healthy blood donors, without any symptoms of cough, fever, flu or difficulty in breathing, as well as a negative travel history to countries such as \* China, Korea, Japan, Italy, and Iran in the last 28 days can be present at a blood donation activity
  2. Sufficient training to all blood banking staff regarding COVID 19 including *Standard Operating Procedures* on the measures to prevent the spread of the infection as well as the additional donor eligibility criteria to ensure safety of the blood , the donor and staff.
  3. To advocate continuous blood donation activity and group donations at static blood collection sites such as the NBC, respective state and district hospital blood banks, as well as the NBC satellite centres like Midvalley Donation Suite and the Puspanitapuri Donation Suite.
- B. Preparatory measures to be taken **during** blood donation activity, the NBC and the respective state and district blood banks must:
1. Ensure all staff on duty strictly adheres to the *Standard Operating Procedure* to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. This includes ensuring all staff on duty are healthy and do not have the risk of a communicable diseases;
  2. Provide adequate face masks, hand sanitizers, and disinfectants at the location of the blood donation activity, and to monitor that the staff adhere to the standard precautions such as good hand hygiene, gloves and hand sanitizers usage;
  3. Perform initial screening procedures such as temperature checks; as well as a brief travel history and general wellbeing check to all potential blood donors prior to starting the registration process
  4. Regularly disinfect the registration tables, blood donation equipment, blood donation beds and stress balls that were used

5. Ensure that there is no more than 50 people at a blood donation sites and organised as such so that social distancing can be executed effectively ie. At least 1 metre between individuals.

C. During the **pre-donation counselling**, the medical officer on duty must ensure that the following criteria are fulfilled when choosing a potential blood donor:

1. Getting a detailed travel history from all potential blood donors
2. To defer blood donation temporarily for:
  - Donors that have been confirmed with COVID-19 for 28 days from the date of full recovery
  - Asymptomatic donors with a history of close contact with a COVID-19 positive patient or a COVID-19 Patient Under Investigation (PUI) for 28 days after the last noted contact
  - Asymptomatic donors with a travel history to\* China, Korea, Japan, Italy or Iran for 28 days after the date of arrival back in Malaysia
3. Symptomatic donors or those with respiratory infection other than COVID-19 must delay their donation based on the criteria set in the Transfusion Practice Guideline for Clinical and Laboratory Personnel, 4th Edition 2016.

D. **After** a blood donation activity has been carried out, the NBC and the respective state and district blood banks must:

1. Advise all blood donors, IF they become symptomatic within 14 days of blood donation or IF they come to know they were in close contact with a COVID-19 patient or PUI 14 days prior to their blood donation; to
  - Contact and inform the NBC or the respective state or district blood banks within 24hours of developing those symptoms or contact
  - Get further advise and treatment from a nearby health facility
2. Perform a look back and recall to trace all the blood products and respective components from the implicated donation, either to quarantine or to discard the products if needed.

\*List of countries may be updated accordingly