

Coronavirus Outbreak Precautionary Measures for Blood Donation

Update (17/03/2020)



Coronavirus outbreak

182 866 confirmed cases

The World Health Organization and affiliated organizations have reported a novel Coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan China. To date, more than **180 000 cases** have been confirmed. At least **62 cases** have been confirmed in South Africa at present.

Precautionary deferral:

As a precautionary measure and to ensure the safety of blood and blood products

- Persons who have traveled to China, Japan, Italy, Iran, South Korea, and the USA will be deferred for **21 days**.
- Persons confirmed with Coronavirus infection will be deferred for **28 days** from date of complete clearance of symptoms and;
- People who have been in close contact with confirmed or probable Coronavirus cases will be deferred for **21 days** from the last date of contact.

62 confirmed cases in SA

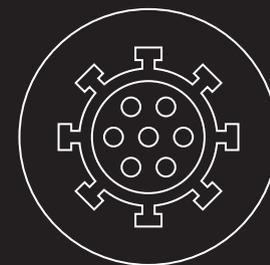
Deferral days



Clinical symptoms of Coronavirus:

Clinical symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat and shortness of breath. Most cases are mild but severe cases have been reported.

How Coronavirus spreads:



- When someone who has Coronavirus coughs or exhales, they release droplets of infected fluid.
- Most of these droplets fall on nearby surfaces and objects - such as desks, tables or telephones.
- People could catch Coronavirus by touching contaminated surfaces or objects and then touching their eyes, nose or mouth.
- If they are standing within one meter of a person with Coronavirus, they can catch it by breathing in droplets coughed out or exhaled by them.
- In other words, Coronavirus spreads in a similar way to flu.
- Most persons infected with Coronavirus experience mild symptoms and recover. However, some go on to experience illness that is more serious and may require hospital care.
- Risk of serious illness rises with age: people over 40 seem to be more vulnerable than those under 40.
- People with weakened immune systems and people with conditions such as diabetes, heart and lung disease are also more vulnerable to serious illness.

Keep yourself safe:

The situation with the outbreak is still developing and people should keep themselves informed of all new developments.

Ask our staff at the donation centers if you have any questions about the safety of your blood.



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