The South African National Blood Service protocols for assessing donors and cleaning our donor centres have always been extremely robust - respiratory infections are common and we are prepared. However, as information about COVID-19 quickly evolves, we are taking additional measures to enhance our protocols to better protect anyone who comes through our doors.

Safety measures:

- Enhanced frequency of cleaning of all equipment and surfaces.
- Active wellness screening before individuals enter the building and at their first point of contact when they enter.
- Donor beds thoroughly cleaned after each use.
- When on donation beds or on a waiting chair, donors will be at a minimum of two metres apart.
- WHO and NICD Experts and blood operators have advised that the use of masks in our donor centres is not currently recommended for employees, or donors who are healthy.

How are our employees being screened in donor centres?
We are currently following the advice from the NICD to ensure, to the best of our ability, that employees who work in our donor centres are healthy. We are taking a number of proactive steps to limit the risk of infection to our donors and staff.

- Employees are being asked to monitor their health and not report to work if they are feeling unwell or have come into contact with someone who is diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Like donors, employees are subject to two active wellness checkpoints upon entry into donor centres where instructions such as hand sanitizing are mandatory.
- Employees are required to use the NICD guidance to self-isolate for 14 days if returning from international travel. Employees are not expected to report to work under these circumstances.

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