



Punjab Blood Transfusion
Authority

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
PUNJAB BLOOD TRANSFUSION AUTHORITY
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No. 175 /PBTA, DATED. 20/3 2020.



Government of the Punjab
Health Department

CIRCULAR


IMPACT OF 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS AND BLOOD SAFETY

Following is being communicated to all blood banks/blood centers by PBTA, in present situation of developing increase in Coronavirus positive cases across the province:

- a. The safety of staff in blood collection establishments must be assured. All the protective measures must be available for staff at blood bank and must be strictly observed.
- b. Donor management/history should be more stressed. Donor assessment must be made by a qualified physician.
- c. Routine blood donor history screening measures that are already in place should prevent individuals with clinical respiratory infections from donating blood. For example, blood donors must be in good health and have a normal temperature on the day of donation. The parameters must be strictly followed.
- d. The deferral period of 28 days represents twice the maximum reported incubation period (14 days) from exposure to onset of symptoms and is the surveillance interval being used in public health.
- e. Blood establishments may consider donor educational materials to instruct individuals to self-defer and refrain from blood donation if they have:
 - a. Cared for, lived with, or otherwise had close contact with individuals diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID-19 OR
 - b. Been diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID-19.
 - c. Have traveled to an area impacted by an outbreak of COVID-19.
- f. Blood establishments may wish to consider updating post-donation instructions provided to all/selected donors of blood and blood components to ask donors to report a subsequent diagnosis of COVID-19 infection as soon as possible to the blood establishment.
- g. Blood banks/centers should prepare and evaluate their emergency plans to address possible challenges, such as effects on the availability of blood donors and staff.

No. _____/PBTA, DATED. _____ 2020.

- h. More stress should be put on rational and optimal use of blood.
- i. Inventory management must be managed strictly at public blood banks.
- j. The potential for transmitting SARS-COV-2 by blood and blood products is unknown at this time (Respiratory viruses in general are unknown to be transmitted by blood or blood products and there has been no documented case of transfusion transmitted Coronavirus).
- k. PBTA has uploaded a very essential/useful document **APBN RAPID BRIEF WHITE PAPER 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS SARS-COV-2** at pbtapunjab.gov.pk (Downloads Sr. No 14). Please download, study carefully and completely.
- l. PBTA will issue further instructions at its website later on.
- m. For any information/guidance please visit website of PBTA.


SECRETARY
PUNJAB BLOOD TRANSFUSION AUTHORITY
LAHORE

No. and Date even.

Copy is forwarded for information and necessary action to: -

1. Secretary, Specialized Healthcare & ME Department, Lahore.
2. Secretary, P&Sec Healthcare Department.
3. Director General Health Services Punjab, Lahore.
4. Additional Secretary (Technical), Specialized Healthcare and ME Department, Lahore.
5. Additional Secretary (Technical), P & Sec Healthcare Department, Lahore. (To be circulated at all DHQ hospital blood banks and THQ Hospital blood banks)
6. Director Institute of Blood Transfusion Service Punjab, Lahore. (To be circulated at all attached blood banks).
7. Director (Operations), Punjab Healthcare Commission.
8. Dean Institute of Public Health Lahore.
9. Prof. Dr. Saba Jamal Chief Consultant Haematologist Indus Hospital Karachi.
10. Program Manager Punjab Hepatitis Control Program, Lahore.
11. Project Director Punjab AIDS control program.