Change Notification for the UK Blood and Tissue Services

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Implementation To be determined by each Service

CN 52-2026

Mosquito-borne viruses

	Content changed	Type of change	Guidelines affected
1	Mosquito-borne viruses	Updated entry	**Tissue (deceased)** **Tissue (live)**

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Note: this document indicates inserted and ~~deleted~~ text. This formatting will not apply in the published text.

1. Mosquito-borne viruses

Guidelines affected	Reason for change
Tissue (deceased) Tissue (live)	Reduction of the deferral period from 6 to 4 months for donors who had visited a mosquito-borne virus risk endemic area and been diagnosed with, or had symptoms of, infection while there or following their return to the UK. Minor amendment to the 'Additional information' section.

Essential information

Definition/s	**Mosquito-borne virus risk areas** are shown in the Geographical Disease Risk Index which includes details of the specific viral risks present. The day that a donor leaves a risk area is defined as Day 0.
Includes	• Chikungunya Virus, also known as CHIKV • Dengue Virus, also known as Dengue Fever • Yellow Fever, also known as YF • Zika Virus, also known as ZIKV, and Zika Virus Fever
Obligatory	**Must not donate if:** 1. It is less than 4 months ~~*6 months*~~ since the donor has been diagnosed with Chikungunya, Dengue, Yellow Fever or Zika virus infection. 2. It is less than 4 months ~~*6 months*~~ since the donor was last in a mosquito-borne virus risk area and the donor has either had a history of symptoms suggestive of Chikungunya, Dengue, Yellow Fever or Zika virus infection whilst there or following their return to the UK. 3. In other cases, it is 28 days or less since the donor was last in a mosquito-borne virus risk area.
Discretionary	All donors may be accepted 4 months ~~*6 months*~~ after their return from an affected area or resolution of symptoms. If the donor has not had a diagnosis of a mosquito-borne virus, nor has symptoms suggestive of infection, they may be accepted once more than 28 days have passed since they were last in a risk area.

Supporting information

See if relevant	• Geographical Disease Risk Index for countries with a current mosquito-borne virus risk • Infection, general • Malaria • South American trypanosomiasis • South American trypanosomiasis, risk of
Additional information	Chikungunya, Dengue, Yellow Fever and Zika virus are spread by the day-flying mosquito species *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*. These mosquitos are typically found in tropical and subtropical regions including the Caribbean, South and Central America, Mexico, Africa, the Pacific Islands, Southeast Asia, Indian sub-continent, Hawaii and northern parts of Australia. The range of *Aedes albopictus* is increasing into more temperate zones, leading to outbreaks of mosquito-borne virus disease in new areas. This includes seasonal outbreaks of Dengue and Chikungunya in parts of Europe. The GDRI entry for mosquito-borne virus risk areas will indicate whether a risk should be applied all year or can be applied seasonally. Position statements on mosquito-borne viruses are available. **Chikungunya Virus:** Chikungunya is an alphavirus that can cause a wide spectrum of disease. This may range from no or minimal symptoms to death. Most commonly it causes arthritis (typically in the knee, ankle and small joints of the extremities), high fever and a maculopapular rash. Chikungunya virus is found in countries in Asia, Africa, Central and South America, and in the islands of the Caribbean. There is no evidence of person-to-person transmission except through blood transfer. Transplantation ~~*Transfusion*~~-transmission from an asymptomatic individual has not been documented. Nevertheless, restrictions after travel to a Chikungunya virus risk area were introduced to reduce any risk of transmission through blood or tissue donation. **Dengue Virus:** Dengue Virus is a flavivirus that typically gives rise to abrupt high fever with a range of accompanying symptoms. Dengue fever (DF) is the most common insect-borne disease worldwide. Dengue is currently considered endemic in over 140 countries. Transfusion-transmission has been reported.

Overall, up to 75% of cases are asymptomatic or mild. If symptoms occur, they can range from non-specific acute febrile illness to severe disease including dengue haemorrhagic fever and dengue shock syndrome. Mild cases may be misdiagnosed as other febrile illnesses.

Yellow Fever Virus:

Yellow Fever Virus is a flavivirus which is found in Africa, South America, Central America and parts of the Caribbean.

Symptoms of Yellow Fever include high temperature, headache, nausea and vomiting, muscle pains and backache. One in four individuals may suffer from jaundice and bleeding from the gastrointestinal tract and other sites.

Zika Virus:

Zika Virus is a flavivirus which was known to occur in Africa and parts of Southeast Asia. More recently, Zika Virus has been associated with epidemic outbreaks in the Pacific region and in the Americas. As well as mosquito-borne infection, Zika Virus can be spread through sexual transmission.

Infection is usually asymptomatic or presents as a mild self-limiting febrile illness. More severe disease and hospitalisation are rare but infection during pregnancy carries a high risk of congenital abnormalities in the baby. Zika Virus infection may be mistaken for Chikungunya or Dengue infections as these viruses often co-circulate.