

FAQs on donors who have received a COVID-19 vaccine

Can a donor who has received one of the new vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 approved for emergency use by the FDA donate blood products?

Those donors who have received an FDA approved COVID-19 vaccine under emergency use authorization (EUA) may donate blood with no deferral. The two current vaccines with FDA authorization are from Pfizer and Moderna. As more vaccines are approved for emergency use authorization, we expect the list of acceptable vaccines will grow. According to the recent update to SOP 1516, all donors who have received COVID-19 vaccines that are “inactivated, non-replicating, or RNA-based” are acceptable as regular blood donors. We expect vaccines in those categories to comprise the VAST majority of vaccines received by the public in the coming months.

Can someone who has participated in a COVID-19 vaccine RESEARCH trial donate blood products?

Regular blood donors in research trials who have received a vaccine or a “placebo” (inactive injection) that is “inactivated, non-replicating, or RNA-based” are acceptable as regular blood donors. The FDA allows medical directors to make individual decisions for research vaccinations, and the LifeStream medical team has decided not to defer such donors. Please note, if the potential donor does not know whether the vaccine in the trial meets the above criteria, they are deferred for two weeks from the date of the injection.

Are donors who received a COVID-19 vaccine eligible to donate any type of blood product?

Almost any product! Donors who received a COVID-19 vaccine that is inactivated, non-replicating, or RNA-based may donate whole blood, platelets, and plasma. At this time, however, COVID-19 vaccine recipients may not donate COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma (CCP).

Can a recovered COVID-19 patient who has also received a COVID-19 vaccine, eligible to donate convalescent plasma?

Per current FDA guidance, a recovered COVID-19 patient who has also received a COVID-19 vaccine is currently deferred from donating COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma (CCP).

What if a donor has been treated with monoclonal antibodies to COVID-19 (MoAB)?

Currently, LifeStream is deferring donors who have received monoclonal antibody treatment for 3 months, just like the deferral for blood transfusion.

If a potential blood donor received COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma (CCP), is the donor eligible to donate?

There is a 3 month deferral from the date of receipt of convalescent plasma.

Must a donor who has received a COVID-19 vaccine provide documentation of receipt?

At minimum, the **date** the donor received the COVID-19 vaccine and the **type** of vaccine received, even if unknown, needs to be documented.

The vaccine will be administered as a series of two injections, so does a donor need to have received the second shot to be eligible to donate?

No, whether the donor has received one or two injections of an eligible COVID-19 vaccine, he or she may donate.

Once someone gets the vaccine, can they stop practicing face covering, social distancing whenever possible, and hand cleansing?

All safety protocols will remain in place for now, regardless of whether staff and/or donors have received the vaccine. The vaccines are still “new” enough that relaxing our safety protocols is unwise. LifeStream physicians will continue to monitor the situation closely, and may adjust protocols in the future if future evidence indicates it is safe to do so.

Can someone who has been vaccinated still carry and transmit the virus?

While the vaccines in use and under study appear to be highly effective at preventing COVID-19 infections, it is of course possible that someone could be vaccinated while still in an early, undetected stage of a COVID-19 infection. As a result, as above, all donors and staff who have been vaccinated will still need to adhere to all safety protocols.

Can someone get COVID-19 from a blood transfusion from a donor who has received a COVID-19 vaccine?

To date, there is no evidence that the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) is transmissible by blood transfusion. In general, vaccines work by introducing viral proteins that allow a person’s immune system to develop antibodies to that virus and mount an immediate immune response, should that person contract the virus. Therefore, the vaccine would have a potentially protective benefit.

Does LifeStream's antibody testing distinguish between people who have been vaccinated, people who had COVID-19, and people who both had the disease and were vaccinated?



Our initial test identifies antibodies that could have developed as a result of either the COVID-19 vaccination or as a result of COVID-19 infection, but it does not distinguish between the source.

Additional Information/Resources:

[Aug 7th REGULATORY UPDATE: Investigational Vaccines and Deferral for Donors of Blood and Convalescent Plasma](#)

[Nov 20th REGULATORY UPDATE: Evaluating Donor Risk and Deferrals Following Vaccination](#)

[Oct 5th Live with FDA on the CCP Regulatory Landscape AABB Annual Meeting](#)

[AABB Standards - Sept 2020 Guidance for the Standards for Blood Banks and Transfusion Services, 32nd edition - Deferral following COVID-19 vaccines](#)

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