

FAQs on donors who have received a COVID-19 vaccine

Can a donor who has received one of the 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 three current vaccines with FDA authorization are from Pfizer, Moderna, and J&J. As more vaccines are approved for emergency use authorization, we expect the list of acceptable vaccines will grow. According to our procedures, all donors who have received COVID-19 vaccines that are “inactivated, non-replicating, or RNA-based” are acceptable as regular blood donors; all of the currently approved vaccines are considered acceptable.

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?

Donors who received a COVID-19 vaccine that is inactivated, non-replicating, or RNA-based may donate whole blood, platelets, and plasma. All vaccines in current use under the FDA emergency use authorization are included in this group of acceptable vaccines.

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?

LifeStream does not require that donors show their “vaccination card” at the time of donation. However, we do request the donor report at minimum the date of vaccination(s) and type of vaccination (e.g., “Pfizer,” “Moderna,” or “J&J”) at the time of donation.

Since the vaccine is being administered as a series of two injections while a booster injection is also available for eligible recipients, does a donor need to have received the second shot or a booster dose to be eligible to donate?

No, the donor may donate regardless of the number of COVID-19 vaccine injection.

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

Face covering protocols will remain in place in donor collection areas for now, regardless of whether staff and/or donors have received the vaccine. LifeStream physicians will continue to monitor the situation closely, and may adjust protocols in the future. We are aware of the recent updates to protocols in California.

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

There is no evidence that the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) is transmissible by blood transfusion, either from a donor who is actively infected with the virus or from donors who have received the vaccine. In general, vaccines work by exposing a person to 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. No active virus is present in the current vaccine formulations.

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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