

COVID-19 Infection, Prevention and Control risk mitigations for Blood Collection Sessions at Sheffield Donor Centre.

Government advice is clear that 2m social distancing must be maintained whenever possible. Government advice also concedes that it may not always be possible for workplaces to maintain 2m social distance and undertake business critical activity. The collection of blood products is clearly a business critical activity. Where 2m social distance cannot be maintained the government has identified that 1m+ additional mitigations would provide a similar level of protection as 2m. Therefore, on blood collection sessions the following controls must be implemented

Elimination

- Colleagues must not attend work if they or any household member has symptoms of Covid-19.
- Blood Donation session and triage arrangements in place,
- MPD110/5 – Pandemic Planning – Management and Layout of Donor Sessions,
- COVID-19 related screening questions to be asked of Donors ahead of their appointment, including:
 - Have you had the recent onset of a new continuous cough?
 - Do you have a high temperature?
 - Have you noticed a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell?
- If the Donor has any of these symptoms, however mild, they should stay at home and reschedule their appointment.

Substitution

- Ensuring any changes to entrances, exits and queue management take into account reasonable adjustments for those who need them, including disabled donors. For example, maintaining pedestrian and parking access for disabled donors.
- Using safe outside areas for breaks.
- Creating additional space by using other parts of the working area or building that have been freed up by remote working.
- Using outside spaces for queuing where available and safe, Queues outside should be managed to ensure they do not cause risk to individuals or other businesses, for example by introducing queuing systems, using barriers and having staff direct donors.

Engineering Controls

- NHSBT has calculated the maximum number of donors to allow social distancing measures to be maintained in Sheffield donor clinic (2m, or 1m with risk mitigation where 2m is not viable, is acceptable) and is limiting the number of

appointments at any one time. Have considered total floorspace as well as likely pinch points and busy areas.

- Reviewed layouts and processes to maintain social distancing (2m, or 1m with risk mitigation where 2m is not viable, is acceptable) between Donors being attended simultaneously, ensuring there is sufficient spacing between donation chairs,
- Use of floor markings to help people comply with social distancing guidelines wherever possible (2m, or 1m with risk mitigation where 2m is not viable, is acceptable). particularly in donor interaction zones.
- Adjusted how people move through the session to reduce congestion and contact between donors. There is a queue management system and a one-way flow in place in some areas of the donor centre.
- Social distancing measures of 2m wherever possible and where not, at least 1m+ with additional mitigations in place.
- Number of beds limited to enable 2m social distance between beds as some donors will be required to remove their masks whilst on the donation bed/chair.
- 2m spacing maintained where possible between donor and colleague undertaking welcome
- Social distancing in waiting areas when donors wait for their appointments. When waiting areas can no longer maintain social distancing, clinic moves to a 'one-in-one-out' policy.
- Waiting donors are seated 2m apart (chairs are side to side, face coverings are worn, Screens in place at welcome.
- Mealtimes arranged to enable staff to maintain 2m social distancing.
- Daily brief or any other training to maintains 2m social distancing.
- Covid symptoms check system for donors and visitors to ensure everyone who enters the donation session is well and has not had any recent illness.
- The facility is well ventilated through air conditioning and if necessary by fixing doors and windows open where appropriate.
- Continuous care model minimises contact between different Donor Carers while caring for a donor.
- Working practices minimise the duration of contact with the donor
- Hand sanitiser is available on entry to session where safe and practical.
- Donors, visitors and colleagues must sanitize their hands/use alcohol hand rub (hand sanitizing gel) before entering the session environment.
- Suitable handwashing facilities including running water and liquid soap and suitable options for drying are available.
- Increased visible hand hygiene using soap and water or hand sanitiser
- Increased regular and visible cleaning of frequently touched surfaces
- Increased regular cleaning of ICT and communication devices
- Minimising how frequently equipment is shared between Donor Carers, frequently cleaning between use and assigning to an individual where possible.
- Colleagues avoid touching the face, particularly mouth, nose and eyes.
- Colleagues cover mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve (not hands) when coughing or sneezing and put used tissues in nearest bin immediately, then wash/sanitise hands.

Administrative controls

- Operating an appointment-only system.
- When booking an appointment, asking the donor if they can attend on their own, where possible.
- Informing donors of guidance about visiting the premises prior to and at the point of arrival, including information on websites, on booking forms and in entrance ways.
- Reminding donors who are accompanied by children that they are responsible for supervising them at all times and must follow social distancing guidelines.
- Asking donors to arrive at the scheduled time of their appointment.
- Signs and posters on view to build awareness of good handwashing technique, the need to increase handwashing frequency, to avoid touching your face, and to cough or sneeze into a tissue which is binned safely.
- Clear use and cleaning guidance in toilets. Increased frequency of cleaning in line with usage. Use normal cleaning products, paying attention to frequently hand touched surfaces, and consider use of disposable cloths or paper roll to clean all hard surfaces.
- visible cleaning schedule available
- Written and verbal communication of the latest guidelines to both colleagues and donors inside and outside the premises. We also display posters or information setting out how donors should behave on session to keep everyone safe.
- The particular needs of those with protected characteristics, such as those who are hearing or visually impaired are considered when informed. Usually we ask for this information during booking so we are prepared.
- Informing donors that they should be prepared to remove face coverings if asked to do so by staff for the purpose of identification or to have refreshments/fluids
- Avoiding overrunning or overlapping appointments and contacting donors virtually to let them know when they are ready to be seen, where possible.

Personal Protective Equipment

- Donors must always wear a face covering during the donation process. Where the donor is required to remove the face covering 2m social distance rules must be applied.
- The use of fluid repellent surgical face masks for Donor carers is being implemented. This is a precautionary measure. When available the wearing of such masks is mandatory when inside the clinic to provide reassurance to colleagues and donors.
- All donor carers and nurses to be trained in how to wear, use and remove masks and training package to include information on the hazard, risk and controls.
- Dispose of all used masks in clinical waste.
- If there are any shortages of masks, provide to individuals carrying out:
 - screening, and
 - venepuncture, and
 - the nurse.

as these roles cannot maintain social distancing.

- If supply totally interrupted the level of risk is still low due to other control measures in place.
- Staff working in warm/hot conditions should follow the below advice:
 - Take regular breaks if possible, find somewhere cool if you can.
 - Make sure you are well hydrated (checking your urine is an easy way of keeping an eye on your hydration levels – dark or strong-smelling urine is a sign that you should drink more fluids).
 - Be aware of the signs and symptoms of heat stress and dehydration (thirst, dry mouth, dark or strong-smelling urine, urinating infrequently or in small amounts, inability to concentrate, muscle cramps, fainting). Don't wait until you start to feel unwell before you take a break.
 - Use a buddy system with your team to look out for the signs of heat stress (eg confusion, looking pale or clammy, fast breathing) in each other.
 - Between sessions, try to stay cool as this will give your body a chance to recover.
- Disposable gloves and apron are available when carrying out additional cleaning activities during the pandemic.
- Using disposable items where possible

As such controls are acceptable.