



VACCINATION AND BLOOD DONATION

With COVID-19 vaccines widely available to the public and the blood donor base, some donors and patients have questions about vaccination, blood donations and blood transfusions. AABB's experts have compiled answers to some of the most frequently asked questions.

Can individuals donate blood if they have received the COVID-19 vaccine?

- Yes. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has a policy for blood donation after vaccination to protect blood safety. The FDA has confirmed that individuals are permitted to donate blood after they have received a COVID-19 vaccine that is authorized in the U.S., including those manufactured by Johnson & Johnson, Moderna and Pfizer.



Is blood labeled to indicate if it was donated by a vaccinated individual?

- No, for a number of reasons FDA regulations do not permit the labeling of blood to indicate whether or not the donor has been vaccinated.
- FDA has confirmed that there is “no validated method or test to determine whether a donor received an mRNA vaccine.”
- Blood must be labeled according to FDA regulations. Blood and blood components labeled in a manner that is false or misleading are misbranded and are in violation of section 502(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.
- Hospitals have no information to share with patients about whether or not a unit of blood was donated by a vaccinated individual.



Do the vaccines affect the blood supply?

- No, COVID-19 vaccines approved or authorized in the United States present no known risk to the safety of the blood supply or to patients receiving a blood transfusion.
- Vaccines using mRNA do not contain transmissible virus.
- AABB and transfusion medicine specialists in the U.S. and throughout the world have been working closely with FDA since early 2020 to address all questions regarding COVID-19 vaccines and to ensure the highest levels of quality and safety for the nation's blood supply.
- All donors must be well and healthy on the day of donation and undergo an extensive screening process.



How should health care providers respond if a patient requiring a blood transfusion requests blood from an unvaccinated person?

- Explain that blood donated by individuals who have received a COVID-19 vaccine is not associated with a risk for COVID-19 infection; the SARS-CoV-2 virus is not transmissible by blood. In addition, all blood donations must meet all safety criteria, without exception.
- Explain that blood donations are always tested for evidence of infectious diseases as part of a rigorous system to protect patients who might need a transfusion.
- Explain that the hospital does not have information about the donor's vaccination status.
- Explain that labeling blood with information about the vaccine status of the donor is not permitted by FDA regulations and that there is no test to confirm if the blood was or was not collected from vaccinated donor.
- Explain that every patient has the option to accept or decline transfusion, following the hospital's informed consent policy, processes and procedures. Legal requirements for informed consent vary from state to state; however, the requirements generally include:
 - An explanation of options and alternatives;
 - An explanation of the material risks and benefits of each option;
 - An opportunity for the patient to ask questions and have them answered by a qualified health care professional; and
 - Documentation of the patient's decision, including any conditions expressed for the consent.

