



**Blood and Transplant**

**To: Transfusion Laboratory Managers, Transfusion Practitioners, Consultant Haematologists with responsibility for Blood Transfusion, HTC Chairs.**

Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to request your Trust's help and support in recruiting donors to provide convalescent plasma for patients being treated with COVID-19.

### **BACKGROUND: COVID-19 CONVALESCENT PLASMA**

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) has embarked on an ambitious programme to collect large volumes of plasma from donors who have recovered from COVID-19. Donated plasma will be transfused to patients being treated for COVID-19 and, in theory, the antibodies present may support the patient's immune response to recover from the virus.

You can find out more information about the programme here  
<https://www.nhsbt.nhs.uk/covid-19-research/>

### **WE ARE URGENTLY RECRUITING COVID-19 CONVALESCENT PLASMA DONORS**

It is important that we initially target collections in areas where there is a higher prevalence of COVID-19 and are therefore presently looking to recruit potential donors who work for the NHS in **LONDON, BIRMINGHAM** and **MANCHESTER**:

- London, Manchester and Birmingham have been identified as key areas of infection
- NHS staff may have had increased exposure to COVID-19 and may therefore offer us a greater chance of collecting plasma containing COVID-19 neutralising antibodies
- In addition, NHS workers may have already had a positive antigen test at some point in the last few weeks
- We know that many NHS colleagues are already loyal and committed blood donors, which makes them especially important in this effort.

### **OUR REQUEST FOR HELP**

We would really appreciate your urgent support to help recruit donors:

1. Please disseminate this information amongst your Trust colleagues. If you are able to facilitate publication of this request on your Trust intranet it would be appreciated.
2. Colleagues who would like to donate should call **0300 123 23 23** and advise that they are an NHS worker. Details will then be passed to our dedicated COVID-19 convalescent plasma team where their offer of help will be prioritised.
3. Please note that plasma donations can be taken at 28+ days after hospital discharge or at 35+ days after having displayed COVID-19 symptoms, self-isolated and recovered.
4. Colleagues who are eligible to donate will be contacted by our team to book an appointment, relative to their phase of recovery.

We are very grateful to our NHS colleagues who are working so hard in these unprecedented times. We appreciate that this is an additional ask during challenging times, but thank you in anticipation of your help.

If there is any further information or support we can provide to help promote recruitment within your organisation, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

Kind regards,

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