

BLOOD DONOR DEFERRAL GUIDELINES

There are a number of criteria that will disqualify an individual from being a volunteer blood donor.

YOU CAN NOT DONATE BLOOD IF YOU. . .

1. Do not have proper identification, or if it has expired.
2. Are not feeling well.
3. Are under 16 years of age (16 year-olds must have signed parent/guardian consent).
4. Weigh less than 110 pounds. (16 year-olds must weigh at least 130 lbs.).
5. Have taken antibiotics for an infection within the last 48 hours (oral or injection).
6. Have had dental work or oral surgery within the last 72 hours (dental cleaning/filling should wait only 24 hours).
7. Have taken Proscar or Propecia (Finasteride) in the last 30 days.
8. Have taken Accutane (Isotretinoin) or oral Retin-A in the last 30 days.
9. Are currently pregnant or have given birth in the past 6 weeks.
10. Have had a vaccination in the last 8 weeks, such as Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Meningitis, Chicken Pox, etc. (Check vaccination type with staff member).
11. Have had a tattoo or permanent makeup application in the past 3 months. If either was applied at a state licensed facility in LA, TX, AL or MS using sterile technique, donor is eligible as soon as the site is healed. No wait for permanent makeup applied by a Dermatologist (M.D.)**
12. Have had an ear or body piercing in the past 3 months (Deferred for 3 months from the date of procedure, unless ear or body piercing has been done using single-use equipment).**
13. Have had a blood component transfusion or non-self tissue transplant (bone, skin, tendon, etc.) within the last 3 months.
14. Have taken Avodart or Jalyn (Dutasteride) in the last 6 months.
15. Have had a branding in the past 12 months.
16. Have taken Hepatitis B Immune Globulin in the past 12 months (Given following exposure to the virus).
17. Have had Malaria in the past 3 years or visited a malaria risk area within the last 3 months.
18. From 1980 through 1996, spent time that adds up to 3 months or more in the United Kingdom countries of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands, Gibraltar, or the Falkland Islands*
19. From 1980 to the present, received a blood transfusion in France, Ireland, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands, Gibraltar, or the Falkland Islands*
20. Have a history of heart disease, angina, or other heart problems (arrhythmias, etc.).
21. Have chronic lung/breathing problems.
22. Have taken Tegison (Acitretin) or Soriatane (Etrinate) for Psoriasis.
23. Have a history of, or ever tested positive for, Hepatitis B or C.
24. Have a history of a bleeding or clotting disorder (Hemophilia A or B, Factor V Leiden Deficiency, etc.).
25. Have a history of any blood or bone marrow malignancy (Leukemia, Lymphoma, Myeloma, etc.).
26. Have a recent history of certain soft tissue cancers.
27. Have Sickle Cell Disease (Sickle Cell Trait donors are eligible).
28. Have chronic kidney or liver disease.
29. Have Tuberculosis, or a positive test for Tuberculosis, and are currently taking medications for treatment.
30. Are HIV positive, had previous reactive HIV test(s), or have participated in activities that place you at higher risk for contracting the virus.

RECENT CRITERIA CHANGES:

**Tattoos, Permanent Makeup, and Body Piercing:

- The deferral criteria for **tattoos** has changed from 1 year to **3 months**.
- If your tattoo was applied at a licensed Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, or Texas tattoo parlor using sterile technique, donor is eligible **as soon as the site is healed**.
- Tattoos applied by a Dermatologist (M.D.) as permanent makeup (eyeliner, lipcolor, etc.) are acceptable - no waiting period.
- Criteria for ear and body piercing has changed from 1 year to 3 month deferral. However, there is no deferral if performed using single-use equipment

*Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD) "Mad Cow" Countries of Risk

No longer deferred as per the 2020 FDA Guidance Changes:

- Donors who have spent 5 years of more in Europe from 1980 to present (excluding France and/or Ireland between 1980 through 2001)
- Donors who lived in any U.S. Military bases in Northern Europe (Germany, U.K., Belgium, and the Netherlands) for 6 months or more from 1980 through 1990.
- Donors who have lived in any U.S. Military bases elsewhere in Europe (Greece, Turkey, Spain, Portugal, and Italy) for 6 months or more from 1980 through 1996.

Note: You still must wait one year to donate after self-piercing or body branding.

If you were deferred from donating blood for these reasons you may be eligible to donate.