

**National Blood Transfusion Council (NBTC) advisory for blood banks and potential blood donors to prevent Zika virus infection in the country by blood transfusion**

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All blood banks in the country should ensure following precautions:

1. Blood banks strictly adhere to donor selection criteria and do proper donor screening. Blood banks must ask for travel history to ensure that individuals returning from outbreak zone are not accepted for blood donation till 120 days of return. These donors must be symptom free during this period prior to blood donation.
2. Blood banks should not accept blood from donors till 2 weeks following complete recovery from acute viral infection and cessation of any therapy/ medications.
3. Potential blood donors who have returned from outbreak zone should:
  - a. Not donate blood for 120 days from date of return.
  - b. Blood donors should report to blood bank if they develop sign and symptoms of Zika infection within 2 weeks of blood donation.
4. NBTC has not approved any blood donor screening tests for Zika virus.
5. No human plasma should be imported from Zika outbreak regions/countries