

SUSPECT/PROBABLE SARS CASES INVOLVING BLOOD RECIPIENTS

PROTOCOL

1. Public health officials will be informed by treating physicians involved in SARS investigations in patients and the public health should ask the question if this patient has received blood transfusion.
2. A public health official should assess this situation as per public health management.
3. Ask the question has the patient received blood transfusions 10 days prior to the onset of fever.
4. If no, this risk factor is eliminated.
5. If yes, the following procedures should be followed:
 - a. Collect demographic data.
 - b. Assess where the transfusion was done (out In/Out Patient Department).
6. Public health immediately to inform the local hospital bloodbank that has issued the blood. Provincial traceback/lookback procedures will be activated, which includes informing CBS/Héma-Québec.
7. CBS/Héma-Québec will activate their trace back procedures.
8. Health Canada Biologic and Genetic Therapies Directorate will be informed through the CBS/Héma-Québec.
9. Regulatory action will be given by Biologics and Genetic Therapies Directorate to CBS/Héma-Québec for further actions and follow-up.
10. Public health officials should assess if isolation of the recipient is required. If the patient has recovered by the time of the investigation, isolation of the patient may not be needed.

Prepared by: Dr. Antonio Giulivi
Director, BSSHCAID/CIDPC/PPHB
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