



# Eligibility Criteria and Blood Donation in Bermuda

**Thank you for your interest in blood donation. Listed below are the eligibility criteria for blood donation in Bermuda. We would be grateful if you invite your friends and colleagues to consider becoming Bermuda blood donors, too.**

- All potential blood donors must be healthy and be between the ages of 18 and 70 years and weigh at least 110lbs.
- There is a one-year deferral period for people who have a tattoo. People with body piercings, and those who have undergone electrolysis and acupuncture, have a three-day deferral period from the time of treatment, dependent upon the use of sterile technique.
- Travellers who have visited any malaria country will be deferred for one year from the time they left that country.
- There is an indefinite period of deferral for people who have spent an accumulative total time of:
  - a) three months or more in United Kingdom or France between 1 January 1980 and 31 December 1996.
  - b) six months or more in Saudi Arabia between 1 January 1980 and 31 December 1996.
  - c) five years or more in Europe between 1 January 1980 and the present day.
- There is an indefinite deferral for people who have received blood transfusion(s) in the United Kingdom or France between 1 January 1980 and the present day.
- We usually take individuals if they are on medication, as long as they have stable health and are not being treated for an infection. Kindly contact the Blood Donor Centre for further clarification about specific medications.
- An individual exposed to allergenic tissue through organ transplant or transfusion of red cells, plasma, platelets or other blood products should be deferred for a period of 12 months.
- Individuals who have had one or both of the following will be deferred for a period of 12 months from the last day of contact:
  - a) contact with an open wound, non-intact skin or mucous membrane with the blood from another person.
  - b) a needle stick or other sharp injury from an instrument that has been used on another person.
- Individuals who have had syphilis, gonorrhoea or chlamydia treatment will be deferred for a period of 12 months from the date that treatment is completed.
- Individuals who have been detained or incarcerated in a facility (juvenile detention, lockup, jail or prison) for more than 72 consecutive hours are deferred for 12 months from the last date of incarceration.



## Bermuda Hospitals Board

- Individuals with the following sexual contact histories are deferred for a period of 12 months from the date of last contact:
  - a) sexual contact with individuals who have clinical or laboratory evidence of HIV or hepatitis infection, people who give money or drugs in exchange for sex, or intravenous drug addicts.
  - b) Female potential donors who have had sexual contact with men who have had sexual contact with another man.
- Individuals who have received money, drugs or other payment for sex from 1977 are deferred indefinitely.
- Male donors who have had any sexual contact with another male are deferred a period of 12 months following sexual contact.

### Other information for donors

Donors need to be well-hydrated. It is a good idea to drink extra fluids, beginning two to three days prior to donating blood. A good meal prior to donation is essential.

The donation process takes about 30 minutes and involves filling out a questionnaire, checking the donor's blood pressure, temperature and haemoglobin, donating blood, and enjoying some refreshments afterwards.

Blood donors must not be engaged in any strenuous activity 24 hours after donation and they must drink extra fluids for the next 48 hours to replenish their blood volume.

Our clinics are held five days a week from Monday to Friday. Appointment times are from 8:30am to 2:30pm Monday to Thursday, and 8:30am to 1pm on Fridays.

We have three marked parking bays allocated to blood donors during clinic times. These parking areas are at the back of the visitor's car park located next to the old Emergency Department entrance, towards the left-hand side. They are clearly marked.



**We advise our first-time donors to give us a call so we can provide them with an overview of the procedure and answer any questions, especially concerning medication usage and possible sensitive lifestyle or sexual issues that may cause deferral. Individuals who have pending/future surgeries or investigations must bring this information to the attention of Blood Donor Centre staff.**

Contact us for more information:

Bermuda Blood Donor Centre  
First Floor, General Wing  
King Edward VII Memorial Hospital

Tel: (441) 236-5067

Email: [blood.donor@bhb.bm](mailto:blood.donor@bhb.bm)

Facebook: [facebook.com/betsie.blooddrop](https://www.facebook.com/betsie.blooddrop)