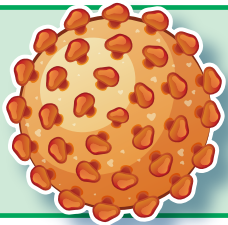
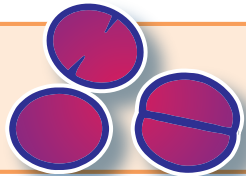


The Blood Borne Virus Unit 2019

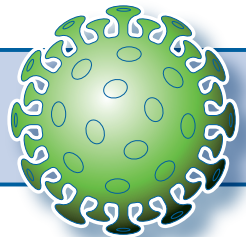
Concerns



Hepatitis B virus, hepatitis E virus and human herpesvirus 8 (HHV8) infections in recipients following transfusion or transplantation



Staphylococcus aureus infection, HIV diagnoses in the era of PrEP, and endogenous retroviruses



Emerging issues such as HTLV, HHV8 and COVID-19



Evolving epidemiology of tropical viruses in Europe such as West Nile virus, Usutu virus, dengue and Chikungunya

Priorities

- evaluate and develop high sensitivity assays for measuring viral load and characterisation
- conduct seroepidemiology studies and generate data to inform risk assessments for organ donors
- evaluate viral load and transmissibility across the range of blood components

- support work to further explore known threats
- developing tools for informing on unknown threats

- develop assays and technology transfer to better respond to requests for diagnostics of such threats
- use these assays and tools to feed into operational strategies and risk assessments

- validation and development of molecular and serological tools and seroepidemiology studies to generate evidence and inform on screening and deferral guidelines for returning travellers