



Safe supplies 2020: Progress in a pandemic

Joint working between NHS Blood and Transplant and UK Health Security Agency

Horizon scanning for emerging infections, UK 2020

Identification

The Epidemiology unit produces the Emerging Infection Report (EIR), a monthly horizon scanning list of emerging infections with potential to affect the UK blood and tissue supply. 2020 examples for monitoring include:



Usutu virus, birds UK; public health risk raised to low



First record of human babesiosis and second record of tick-borne encephalitis acquired in UK

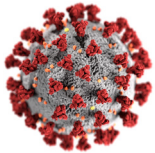
Risk assessment



The Standing Advisory Committee on Transfusion Transmitted Infection (SACTTI) risk-assesses the EIR and highlights whether further action required by Joint UKBTS Professional Advisory Committee (JPAC)

Evaluation and decision

Coronavirus risk assessment



Transfusion transmission unlikely but deferrals in place as a precaution



Sufficiency of supply and safety at session

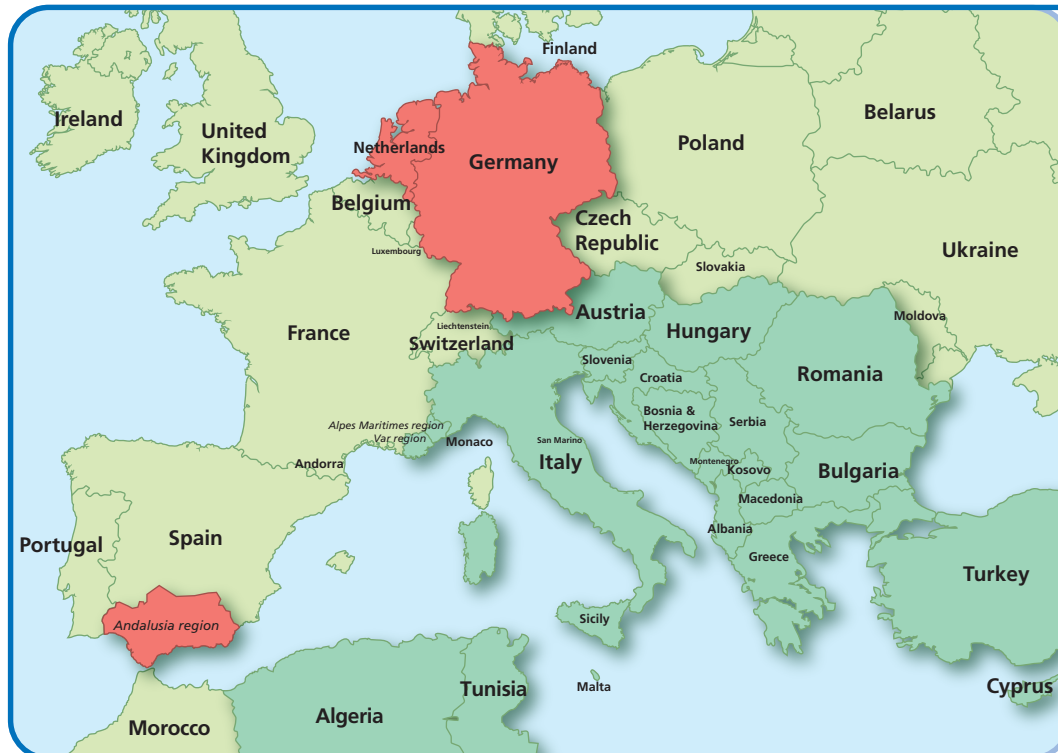
Donation allowed during lockdown with safety precautions



Facemasks



2 metre space



West Nile virus (WNV) testing map

- Existing WNV affected area
- New WNV affected area 2020

WNV testing extended to donors returning from Germany, Netherlands and Spain's Andalusia region

Reduced travel in 2020 led to reduced WNV testing: 7,000 tests by NHSBT compared with 42,000 in 2019

EIR Sources include: UKHSA Emerging Infections monthly summaries; European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) communicable disease threat reports, Program for Monitoring Emerging Diseases (ProMED) outbreak and news alerts, peer-reviewed literature