



## Safe supplies 2020: Progress in a pandemic

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

# Infection in blood donors, UK 2020 (HEV shown separately)

### Low number of positive donations due to donor selection



approximately 1 million donors

#### Donation safety check

reduces the number of recent infections that screening might not detect



1.7 million donations maintained the supply

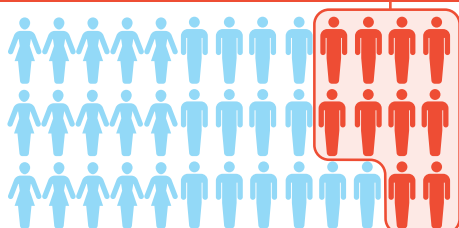
174 positive donations identified and discarded or 1 in 10,000 donations

### Recent infection used to monitor current risky sexual behaviour

39 recent syphilis probably acquired in the 12 months before donation

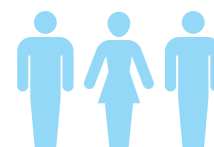
26 compliant and 3 compliance unknown

10 did not comply with the safety check:  
6 had been recently treated for syphilis  
3 had sex between men within 3 months  
1 had both



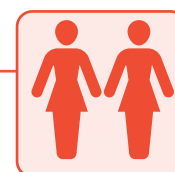
No recent UK syphilis transfusion transmissions due to storage conditions but syphilis surveillance is useful to monitor current sexual behaviour

5 recent viral infections probably acquired in the 12 months before donation

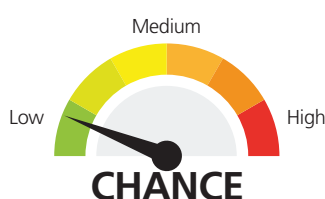


2 hepatitis B, 2 hepatitis C and 1 HIV

2 females did not comply with the safety check, as they did not declare they had higher risk partners



### Safety maintained and changes to donor selection agreed



These low numbers are similar to 2019 and maintain a current low chance of releasing an HBV, HCV or HIV infectious donation of less than 1 in 1 million

To maintain safety, donors need to be encouraged to report past infection and think about current sexual activities before giving blood



Ministers agreed to change to a more individualised blood donor selection policy, implemented in 2021