



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
ARMED SERVICES BLOOD PROGRAM OFFICE  
7700 ARLINGTON BOULEVARD  
FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA  
22042-5143**



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF ASBPO

BPL 16-02  
3 FEB 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Guidance Regarding Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya Viruses

1. The Armed Services Blood Program Office (ASBPO) is a Joint Health Service Agency established by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs to integrate the blood programs of the Military Services and the Combatant Commands. In that respect, the ASBPO is issuing Blood Program Letter (BPL) 16-02, *Guidance Regarding Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya Viruses*.
2. The AABB recently released Association Bulletin 16-03, *Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya Guidance* (Attachment 1) in response to the ongoing outbreaks of Zika virus and to provide the rationale for the blood community taking action to address the potential threat to blood recipients. While the focus of this bulletin is Zika virus, the measures described are also effective for Dengue and Chikungunya viruses. This AABB Association Bulletin supersedes #14-03, DATED June 6, 20014, which described post donation information and actions for Dengue and Chikungunya viruses.
3. The new guidance contains information about the potential for transfusion-transmitted Zika infection; recommends facilitating donor self-deferral of 28 days after travel to Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America and South America. Additionally, the bulletin provides educational post-donation information materials and recommendations for use by blood collection organizations relevant to Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya viruses(Attachments 2, 3) and provides recommended actions to be taken by the collection facility in response to post donation information reports.
4. ASBPO requests all sites to implement the 28-day self-deferral process and utilize the informational materials during the screening process to inform donors of the need to delay donation after such travel. Additionally, the post donation information materials should be utilized for donors who do not self-defer, requesting them to call the collection facility if they travelled to Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America, and develop unexplained post-donation illness inclusive of two or more of the listed symptoms – common to Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya infection – in the 14 days following donation. The post donation information sheet should be provided to the donor along with the standard post donation information materials. Collection facilities are instructed to recall non-transfused blood products in the event an infected donor reports experiencing two or more of the symptoms. If a blood collection facility received a post donation report of a confirmed case of Zika, Dengue, Chikungunya virus

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infection, the collection facility should recall any in-date blood products collected in the 14 days prior to the onset of symptoms and defer the donor for 28 days following resolution of symptoms

5. Request Service Blood Program Officers and Combatant Command Joint Blood Program Officers review, distribute and implement the above measures no later than Tuesday, 12 February 2016. [REDACTED]



ROLAND L. FAHIE, CAPT, MSC, USN  
Director

Attachments:

- (1) AABB Association Bulletin 16-03, *Zika, Dengue and Chikungunya Guidance*
- (2) Informational Handout: *“Donor Self-Deferral Information Sheet to Reduce the Risk of Transfusion-transmitted Zika”*
- (3) Post-Donation Information Sheet

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