

**Summary of guidelines of the Food and Drug Administration and American Association of Blood Banks for deferral of blood donors at increased risk for malaria**

**Defer blood donation for 1 year**

- Travelers who are residents of nonmalarious areas who have been in a malarious area may be accepted as donors 1 year after their return to the nonmalarious area (irrespective of the use of chemoprophylaxis) if they have been free of malaria symptoms.

**Defer blood donation for 3 years**

- Immigrants or visitors from malarious areas may be accepted 3 years after departure from the area if they have been asymptomatic. Former residents of malarious areas who now live in the United States but who return to visit a malarious area may be accepted as donors 3 years after their most recent visit.
- Persons who have had a diagnosis of malaria should be deferred for 3 years after becoming asymptomatic.

**Sources:** Mungai M, Tegtmeier G, Chamberland M, Parise M. Transfusion-transmitted malaria in the United States from 1963 through 1999. *N Engl J Med* 2001;344:1973-8.

Zoon K. Recommendations for deferral of donors for malaria risk: letter to all registered blood establishments. Washington, DC: Food and Drug Administration, 1994.

American Association of Blood Banks. Standards for blood banks and transfusion services, 21st ed. Bethesda, Maryland: American Association of Blood Banks, 2002.

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