

An Important Message That Must Be Read By All Donors

What is AIDS?

AIDS, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, is a condition caused by HIV-1 (the AIDS virus) in which the body's normal defense mechanisms against certain infectious diseases are severely reduced. As a result, patients develop unusual infections and cancers, and they ultimately die of these complications. There is no known cure for AIDS. HIV-2, a similar disease, is rare in the United States. Although some people may be infected with these viruses and have mild or no symptoms, it is believed that anybody infected by these viruses may infect others by certain routes.

What does AIDS have to do with donating milk?

It is known that HIV can be spread via body fluids. HIV can be found in the milk of infected women. Therefore, if you are in any of the high-risk groups listed below, please do *not* donate milk. We truly appreciate your willingness to understand the critical need for these voluntary screening procedures. Sometimes the best gift is no gift.

Who is at risk?

It is known that certain groups are at high risk of contracting AIDS as well as passing the HIV-1 or HIV-2 viruses to others:

- Those with symptoms and signs of AIDS (see below).
- Those with clinical or laboratory evidence of HIV infection.
- Sexual partners of AIDS patients.
- Men who have had sex with another man, one or more times since 1977.
- Persons with hemophilia who have received clotting factor concentrates.
- Sexual partners of individuals in any of the above categories.
- Men and women who have engaged in sex for money or drugs since 1977 and persons who have been their sexual partners during the last 12 months.
- Men and women who have received a transfusion of whole blood, blood components or clotting factor within the past 12 months.

Signs and Symptoms of HIV infection:

- Unexplained weight loss
- Night sweats
- Blue or purple spots on or under the skin, or on mucous membranes
- Swollen lymph nodes lasting more than one month
- Persistent white spots or unusual blemishes in mouth
- Temperature greater than 100.5 degrees F for more than 10 days
- Persistent cough and shortness of breath
- Persistent diarrhea

Do Not Donate If You Answer Yes To Any Of The Following Questions:

(The following questions are taken from the FDA Recommendations for Blood Banking)

- In the past 12 months, have you given money or drugs to anyone to have sex with you?
- At any time since 1977, have you taken money or drugs for sex?
- In the past 12 months, have you had sex, even once, with anyone who has taken money or drugs for sex?
- Have you ever used a needle, even once, to take drugs that were not prescribed to you by a doctor?
- In the past 12 months, have you had sex, even once, with anyone who has used a needle to take drugs not prescribed by a doctor?
- In the past 12 months, have you had sex with a male who has had sex, even once, since 1977 with another male?
- Have you ever taken clotting factor concentrates for a bleeding problem such as hemophilia?
- Do you have AIDS or have you had a positive test for the AIDS virus?
- In the past 12 months, have you had sex, even once, with anyone who has AIDS or has had a positive test for the AIDS virus?
- Do you understand that if you have the AIDS virus, you can give it to someone else even though you may feel well and have a negative AIDS test?
- In the past 12 months, have you been in jail or prison for more than 72 consecutive hours?
- Do you have any of the symptoms and signs of AIDS (such as unexplained enlarged lymph nodes, unexplained weight loss, night sweats, chronic diarrhea, fungal and viral infections of the mouth, unexplained dark skin nodules, unexplained chronic cough)?
- Were you born in, or have you lived in, or have you traveled to any African country since 1977? If you answer yes to this question:
 - What country?
 - When you traveled to the country(ies) did you receive a blood transfusion or any other medical treatment with a product made from blood?
 - Have you had sexual contact with anyone who was born in or lived in any African country since 1977?