



MINISTERO DELLA SALUTE

*Istituto Superiore di Sanità*  
*Centro Nazionale Trapianti*

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WHO Collaborating Centre  
On Vigilance and Surveillance for  
Human Cells, Tissues and Organs

**Subject: update on the measures to prevent the transmission of the novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) infection through reproductive cells and Medically Assisted Reproduction (MAR) treatments in Italy.**

With respect to the rapid epidemiologic evolution of the SARS-CoV-2 spread in our country, even though, there is no evidence of SARS-CoV-2 transmission through organ, tissues, cells and reproductive cells donation and the risk of transmission is currently unknown, the following measures are recommended:

- **Reproductive cells donor**

- Apply a 14-day temporary suspension criterion for those donors who returned after a period of stay in the People's Republic of China;
- Apply a 14-day temporary suspension criterion after possible exposure to the risk of infection by contact with subjects with documented SARS-CoV-2 infection;
- Apply a 14-day temporary suspension criterion for subjects at risk or who travelled through or stayed, from February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, in the municipalities affected by the urgent measures of containment of the infection (Annex 1 of the Prime Minister's Decree of February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020)
- Apply a 14-day temporary suspension criterion from the disappearance of the symptoms or the interruption of the possible treatment therapy for donors who were found positive to the SARS-CoV-2 infection (documented infection or appearance of symptoms compatible with the SARS-CoV-2 infection)
- Encourage donors to inform the MAR Centre or Bank where the donation occurred, in case of appearance of symptoms compatible with the SARS-CoV-2 infection or in case of positive diagnosis of the SARS-CoV-2 infection over a 14-day period after donation. If the donor is found positive, he or she shall be deemed unsuitable and the Italian National Transplant Centre and all Regional MAR contact persons involved shall be notified.

- **Partner MAR treatments**

As far as couples treated with partner MAR, there are no specific restrictions, except in case of evident ongoing symptoms compatible with the SARS-CoV-2 infection, unless otherwise specified by regional restrictions.

- **Non partner treatments with imported donated gametes**

As far as the import of gametes donated in other countries is concerned, the acquisition of a supplementary declaration by the issuing Centre, stating that the risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection in the donors has been assessed and that the donors have been declared not at risk, is recommended. The declaration is necessary only for new donations and not for stored samples. The MAR regional contact persons are encouraged to promptly enforce the foreseen actions, duly notifying all structures operating across their territory of competence.

We reserve the right to update the abovementioned recommendations according to the epidemiologic evolution, as well as to the acquisition of further information on SARS-CoV-2.

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