



Luxembourg,
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Summary Table on prevention of West Nile Virus transmission by blood[∇](as of 6 September)

Member State	Responses
BE	Donors asked not to donate blood within 28 days after a stay in the USA. No further measures after the Irish case.
CZ	Donors returning from regions with transmission of WNV to humans are excluded according to EC recommendation & Directive 2004/33/EC for a period of 4 weeks. This covers also current 'Portuguese cases, no additional measure adopted. Information on Portuguese cases was published in newspaper (independently of MoH).
DK	Denmark is not implementing the deferral requirement similar to that of Ireland. No, we consider that the requirement set out in Directive 2004/33/EC is adequate.
DE	Beside the two cases reported, in 2004 there have not yet been any further indications of WNV transmissions to humans in Europe. The responsible authority in Germany does not recommend any measures regarding blood donors who return from Portugal. However, situation has to be re-evaluated in case of an increase in the incidence of WNV infections in humans in Portugal or other European areas. The first measure to take would be a time-limited donor deferral pursuant to Directive 2004/33/EC. In case of any further accumulation of WNV infections in Europe, the introduction of testing for WNV should be given careful consideration. At present, recommendation in Directive 2004/33/EC to exclude donors 28 days after leaving an area with ongoing transmission of WNV to humans seems to be an effective measure to prevent WNV transmission by transfusions. In this respect, the EU Early Warning and Response Systems on Communicable Diseases (EWRS) will become increasingly important to communicate the epidemiological situation and in this special case also to establish criteria for an 'ongoing transmission of WNV to humans'. Further measures, such as the introduction of WNV NAT testing for donor screening, should be examined by the single country in the light of their own specific situation (loss of donors, expenses for test introduction).
EE	Estonian blood establishments have implemented supplementary donor questionnaire about West Nile Virus. In that questionnaire there is a question about donors residency in following areas: United States of America, Canada, Mexico and Portugal. Donors are not deferred when more than 30 days has passed since their residence and there has not been any sign of clinical symptoms.
EL	Hellenic Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity following the proposal of the National Committee for Blood Transfusion & in compliance with Directive 2004/33/EC, annex III 2.2.1 introduced since 26 July 2004 temporary deferral from blood donation of any person 28 days after leaving an area with ongoing transmission of WNV namely USA & Canada. In view of recent news from Ireland, the Committee for Blood Transfusion shall discuss possibility of expanding above measure for people after leaving the Algarve - Portugal.

[∇] Data provided to the Commission by national blood experts

Member State	Responses											
ES	At present, no deferral requirements, similar to those of Ireland have been implemented in Spain. Directive 2004/33/CE does not need to be modified. The requirement of a deferral period for blood donors after leaving an area with ongoing transmission of WNV to humans (Commission Directive 2004/33/EC), has been included in the ' <i>Guia de criterios básicos para la selección de donantes de sangre y componentes</i> '. (September 2004).											
FR	<p>MESURES MISES EN PLACE EN FRANCE VIS-A-VIS DU RISQUE DE TRANSMISSION DU VIRUS DU NIL OCCIDENTAL PAR LES PRODUITS SANGUINS</p> <p><u>I- Les mesures générales</u>, complétées par des mesures spécifiques, qui ont été mises en œuvre en France sont les suivantes :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exclusion pendant 28 jours après leur retour des candidats au don de sang ayant séjourné en Amérique du Nord pendant la période de début juin à fin octobre : mesure en place depuis 2003. Cette mesure a été étendue en 2004 aux candidats au don de sang de retour du Mexique, Portugal et Tunisie. <p>II - <u>Mesures supplémentaires</u></p> <p>Un dispositif de surveillance a été mise place dès 2003 afin d' évalue les cas de contaminations humaines et animales.</p> <p>Les signalements de cas autochtones font l'objet d'analyse, au cas par cas, par un comité qui se réunit en urgence pour discuter des éventuelles mesures à mettre en place.</p> <p>En cas d'observation de cas équins ou humains, une cellule d'alerte statuera sur l'opportunité de mise en œuvre de mesures complémentaires qui pourront comporter :</p> <p>1°) Le report au-delà de novembre 2004 des collectes envisagées dans les communes touchées par une éventuelle infection. 2°) L'exclusion temporaire des habitants de ces communes jusqu'au 1^{er} décembre 2004. 3°) L'exclusion des donneurs ayant séjourné dans ces communes. 4°) L'exclusion de 28 jours après le retour des donneurs revenant de pays où l'infection se serait déclarée pendant une période. 5°) L'introduction d'un DGV VNO qualifiant dans les 2 EFS du pourtour méditerranéen. Pour être prêt à répondre sans délai, ces 2 EFS ont mis en place le DGV VNO Chiron, et le font fonctionner à petite échelle (non qualifiant) du 1^{er} juin au 31 octobre.</p> <p>Ces mesures sont intégrées dans une circulaire DGS/SD/DGAI/DNP n°2004-341 du 15 juillet 2004 relative aux mesures visant à limiter la circulation du WNV en France métropolitaine</p> <p>Pays touchés par le WNV (VNO) et conduite à tenir en France vis à vis des donneurs de sang</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>PAYS</th> <th>Période d'application de la mesure</th> <th>Conduite à Tenir</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Etats-Unis</td> <td rowspan="3">1^{er} juin - 30 novembre 2004</td> <td rowspan="6">Exclusion 28 jours après le retour</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Canada</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mexique</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tunisie</td> <td rowspan="2">1^{er} juin - 31 octobre 2004</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Portugal</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	PAYS	Période d'application de la mesure	Conduite à Tenir	Etats-Unis	1 ^{er} juin - 30 novembre 2004	Exclusion 28 jours après le retour	Canada	Mexique	Tunisie	1 ^{er} juin - 31 octobre 2004	Portugal
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IE	Deferring donors for four weeks after leaving the Algarve. This is the same deferral as for people who have been to North America. Will continue with this at least until October. This deferral came into force on 28 July. No change required to 2004/33/EC.											
IT	Italy does not intend to implement the deferral requirement similar to that of Ireland as regards Algarve. No change needs to be made to the requirement already set out in Directive 2004/33/EC.											
CY	Cyprus is implementing the deferral requirements similar to that of Ireland.											
LV	Accordingly Latvian Public Health agency we reject all potential donor for 28 days after visiting such countries as North & South America, Africa, Middle East, West Asia and from July 2004 Portugal too.											
LT	No response received											
LU	Even if the temporary deferral of donors after leaving the Algarve is under discussion, there has been no implementing of this measure at the moment in Luxembourg.											
HU	No response received											
MT	We have applied the same deferral criteria as Ireland as from the 3rd of August 2004.											
NL	Based on the information currently available the Netherlands will not yet include the Algarve as an WNV risk-area. This status will be reconsidered when the region can be regarded as an area with ongoing transmission of WNV to humans. Therefore, the Netherlands feels that changes in Directive 2004/33/EC are not (yet) needed, nor justified.											

Member State	Responses
AT	<p>WNV is endemic in Europe for several decades already and are not known to present a health threat. European WNV strains in contrast to US WNV strains are not reported to cause lethal infections. Therefore the wording of the Directive 2004/33/EC is sufficient to cope with the present threat. It should be considered to extend the timeframe of June through November in USA to the whole year.</p>
PL	<p>Plan to introduce a temporary 28 day deferral of any donor returning from areas with ongoing transmission of WNV to humans.</p>
PT	<p>Temporary deferral of donors for 28 days, with symptoms of flu or flu-like suspected of WNV infection. This criteria will be applicable from 1 May to 31 October. This measure came into force on 4th August. More information is needed in this area and I think there is no need to change Directive 2004/33/EC. After WNV reported cases of an Irish couple that have been in Algarve, Portugal has reinforced surveillance of WNV in humans, but until today, we didn't found any human infection, including in 'suspected cases' (those that had 'flu symptoms' and live or have stayed in mosquitoes zones). However, after the Irish couple cases, Portuguese Blood Institute recommended a temporary deferral, for 28 days, of donors with 'flu symptoms' during summertime, in addition to measures adopted in Commission Directive 2004/33/EC</p> <p>It is not necessary other measures, once WNV infection is a occasional situation.</p>
SI	<p>On 9 August 2004, it was decided to introduce a temporary deferral for blood donors returning from Portugal for 28 days after they return. We will continue with this procedure the whole year.</p>
SK	<p>Implementing the temporary deferral of donors for 28 days after leaving area with ongoing transmission of WNV to humans to our new National Directives.</p> <p>We don't think that any changes are needed to be made in Directive 2004/33/EC. Systematic collaboration between Nat. Public Health authorities responsible for notification of communicable diseases & those responsible for blood transfusion is important on national level & also on level of EU & maybe list of 'risk countries' should be regularly revised.</p>
FI	<p>Regarding WNV, at this stage we are not considering deferring donors who have visited Algarve or Portugal.</p>
SE	<p>Brings up the findings by the US Red Cross in the look-back into the 2003 WNV epidemics. If correct, as cited in the ABC Newsletter July 30, 2004, p. 5, infectious WNV particles may linger in the blood of the infected person up to 49 days after the first signs of infection. This information is new and different from the previous findings, which motivated the 28 day deferral period for WNV in the Directive. We suggest that the Committee looks into this finding, and if it is correct changes the 28 day to e.g. a 56 day deferral period in the daughter Directive 2004/33/EC.</p>
UK	<p>The UK is not considering implementing a deferral similar to that of Ireland.</p> <p>The UK does not consider than any change needs to be made to the requirement already set out in Directive 2004/33/EC.</p> <p>There is no evidence that I am aware of that the Algarve is an area with 'ongoing' transmission of WNV to humans as is currently the case in North America, hence the UK is not putting in place any deferral criteria for visitors returning from the Algarve.</p> <p>The actions the UK Public Health Services are taking are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Publicising information to travellers abroad to take precautions to prevent mosquito bites. 2. Heightening awareness of frontline healthcare workers to the possibility of WNV in the differential diagnosis of patients presenting with viral illnesses. 3. Through the European surveillance network, lobbying for there to be a more co-ordinated approach to WNV surveillance across Europe as at the moment it is very patchy, particularly with regard to monitoring for the presence of WNV in mosquito populations. <p>The UK Blood Services will keep a watching brief and take no action at this stage, but will keep the situation under regular review as more information becomes available from increased vigilance for identified cases and improved European-wide surveillance.</p>