

# OCULAR TISSUE DONATION: EEBA GUIDELINE FOR DONOR SCREENING FOR SARS-Cov-2

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EUROPEAN  
EYE BANK  
ASSOCIATION

The following table is intended to assist eye bank procurement and retrieval staff in their routine donor screening for SARS-Cov-2 and should be used in conjunction with local/regional/national exclusion and deferral criteria determined by competent health authorities, risk assessment instructions from the [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control \(ECDC\)](https://ecdc.europa.eu/en), and the selection/exclusion guidelines in the “ALERT UP-DATE: Coronavirus (COVID-2019) and Ocular Tissue Donation” of the [Global Alliance of Eye Bank Associations \(GAEBA\)](https://www.gaeba.org/). The social anamnesis of each potential donor should be included into each individual risk assessment to determine donor eligibility (e.g. includes close contact to COVID-19 infected persons, vaccination for COVID-19). Regarding procurement a sufficient disinfection of the ocular surface (e.g. with povidone-iodine) is important to inactivate/eliminate enveloped viruses.

SARS-CoV-2 status prior to death	test	donor eligibility
known/available →	positive < 14 days before death	not eligible
unknown/not available →	nasopharyngeal swab post-mortem *	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div style="color: red; font-size: 2em; margin-bottom: 5px;">↑</div> <div style="color: green; font-size: 2em; margin-top: 5px;">↓</div> </div>
known/available →	negative	eligible
known/available →	positive > 14 days before death	eligible 2 weeks after complete recovery and free of symptoms

\* In this case an individual risk assessment is mandatory to decide whether the donor can be accepted or not. Postmortem nasopharyngeal swabs have not yet been validated. However, the result might be included in the risk assessment.



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