



Minister van Sociale Zaken en Volksgezondheid, en van Asiel en Migratie
MAGGIE DE BLOCK

To whom it may concern

Uw kenmerk

Ons kenmerk

MDB/BW/MW/KVDW/jm/2020 - 570860

Bijlagen

Dossier behandeld door

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TRANSPORT OF HEMATOPOIETIC STEM CELLS TO AND FROM BELGIUM

In response to the potential for widespread transmission of COVID-19 by infected individuals seeking to enter Belgium, which threatens the security of the transportation system, infrastructure and national security, legislation is implemented restricting entry into Belgium and the European Union from certain areas with known sustained person-to-person transmission.

The **Marrow Donor Program Belgium - Registry**, with one of its missions to deliver stem cells between volunteer donors and patients in Belgium and the rest of the world has permission from the Minister of Social Affairs and Public Health, represented by the Federal Agency for Medicine and Health Products (Chief Executive Officer: Xavier De Cuyper) to allow persons to enter the country because of proper operation of critical social functions and meet basic needs of the population.

The Marrow Donor Program Belgium - Registry utilizes international couriers who transport the stem cell products abroad scheduled commercial aircraft. **The couriers will have appropriate courier letters**; and the couriers will importing/exporting stem cell products for a patient in need of a transplant.

Based on the above and in application of the COVID Guidelines for border management measures to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and essential services issued by the European Commission on March 16, 2020¹, the Minister of Social Affairs and Public Health, represented by the Federal Agency for Medicine and Health Products, approves that The Marrow Donor Program Belgium - Registry uses its couriers who might otherwise be denied entry under one of the above-referenced issues.

Couriers transporting these samples for The Marrow Donor Program Belgium - Registry will be required to enter Belgium via one of the entry screening airports and will be required to undergo entry screening to ensure that couriers do not pose a significant risk of introducing, transmitting or spreading the virus.

Please be advised that standard importation requirements apply.

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¹ Communication of the European Commission 16.03.2020, COVID-19: Guidelines for border management measures to protect health and ensure the availability of goods and essential services, C(2020) 1753 final ; https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20200316_covid-19-guidelines-for-border-management.pdf

Beleidsceel van de minister van Sociale Zaken en Volksgezondheid, en van Asiel en Migratie

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