

19th February 2015

For the Attention of all AHPs

Re; Hepatitis A and donor frozen berry consumption: Reversal of Donor Deferral relating to frozen berry consumption and Recall of components

Dear Scientists in charge of Blood Banks,

On Saturday the 14th February 2015, the Victorian Department of Health issued a recall and warning on an imported frozen berry mix which may be contaminated with hepatitis A following notifications of hepatitis A that had a common link of consumption of Nanna's Mixed Frozen Berry 1kg bags.

As a precautionary action, whilst further information was gathered, the Blood Service implemented a deferral of donors who informed us they consumed Nanna's Frozen Mixed Berries (1 Kg) within the previous 2 months, as well as recall of any implicated blood components.

Following a comprehensive risk assessment we have concluded that there is no significant risk to the blood supply and as a result the precautionary actions have been withdrawn. The Blood Service will continue to work closely with health authorities to monitor the risk, and will issue further advice if the risk changes.

Given the reversal of these actions, the Blood Service has produced the attached communication to inform clinicians of this change. I would appreciate if you could please distribute this information to relevant clinicians in your hospital.

Yours Sincerely



Dr Joanne Pink
Chief Medical Officer