

2bloodscape

GLOBAL MOBILITIES

With low cost air travel, people travel much more than in the past. Travel provides opportunities for cultural exchange, but can result in exposure to infection. Many infections are carried by insects. For example, mosquitoes transmit malaria, West Nile virus, and Zika virus. Climate change may result in more warm and damp habitat in which mosquitoes thrive (see Clue #9). To protect the blood supply, sometimes travellers need to wait to donate upon their return to Scotland.

MALARIA

- e.g. Botswana, Thailand, Turkey
- 4 month wait with negative malarial antibody test, otherwise 12 month wait

WEST NILE VIRUS

- e.g. Greece, Italy, United States
- No additional wait time, however a test is required

ZIKA VIRUS

- e.g. Cuba, Florida, Mexico
- 4 week wait, if donor remains well during and after trip

TAKE AWAY. Always tell the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS) when and where you have travelled outside the UK.