

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHAT IF I CAN'T DONATE BLOOD?

Guidelines for joining the Registry differ from those for donating blood. Please see our health guidelines for information on specific medical conditions or contact your Be The Match rep.

### TRAVEL

You can register even if you've traveled or lived outside of the U.S. Risk for diseases such as malaria will be assessed if you ever match a patient.

### TATTOO/PIERCING

You can register, no matter when you got your tattoo or piercing.

### LGBTQ

You can register. ALL donors, if they are selected as a potential match, undergo highly effective infectious disease testing to ensure the recipient's and donor's safety.

### PREGNANCY

You can register. We'll just make you temporarily unavailable for about a year after your due date.

## DO I NEED TO RE-REGISTER?

Nope. If you've done the swabs before, you're already a part of every patients' search.

However, make sure to keep your contact information up-to-date! Visit [BeTheMatch.org](http://BeTheMatch.org) to update.

## WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

While many registry members get the call for further testing to see if they're the perfect match, only about 1 in 430 go on to actually donate to a patient.

## WHAT'S THE TIMEFRAME?

It takes an average of 5 weeks for your swabs to make their way through our lab process to place you onto the registry.

Check out the journey of a swab on our YouTube channel!

## CAN I BE TESTED FOR ONE PERSON?

This is called private testing and is done through Kashi Labs, for a fee. You can order a kit from them at [BoneMarrowTest.com](http://BoneMarrowTest.com)

## WHY ARE THERE AGE LIMITS?

Transplant physicians are seeing better outcomes for patients who receive cells from a younger donor. As we age our cells slow down, making it more difficult for them to engraft in patients. Younger cells replicate much more quickly, giving patients the best chance for a cure.

### AGE 45 - 60?

You can still join, but will be asked to cover the \$100 cost associated with joining. Visit [BeTheMatch.org/Join](http://BeTheMatch.org/Join).