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#SWAB
SQUAD



Become a lifesaver
Tribe Israel Tour 2022

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DO YOU HAVE THE STUFF TO SAVE A LIFE?

If someone has a blood cancer, such as leukaemia, the only chance of saving their life could be a stem cell transplant.

But those stem cells have to come from someone with a matching tissue type, which, if you are Jewish, is far more likely to be from someone who is also Jewish. How do you know if you are a match? With a simple swab of your cheek, your saliva can be analysed, and your tissue type recorded on the national register.

Every year there are over 1,000 Jewish people around the world who need an unrelated stem cell donor to save their life. There is now an urgent need to regularly replenish the stock of Jewish stem cell donors on the UK national register. We are delighted to be offering Israel Tour participants (in good health) over 16 years old the chance to join the national register.

There's a slim chance you'll match someone (4-5% over 10 years) but if you do, you could be the one person who can save that person's life. Then, 90% of people donate through their bloodstream over an afternoon. Some people report flu-like symptoms, but these are usually mild and vanish within a few days. Their blood stem cells will completely replenish themselves within 2-4 weeks of the collection.

Participating in the swabbing is of course completely voluntary and is up to each individual. This doesn't require parental permission, but we think it's important for the parents and guardians to be informed.

It takes literally a few minutes to be swabbed, and you could make a lifesaving difference if you are a match. How many chances do you get to do that?

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