American Red Cross   **Blood Program** *Leader*

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CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) UPDATE

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The American Red Cross continues to closely monitor the evolving situation of COVID-19. Due to the amazing outpouring of community support we are able to meet immediate patient needs. Thank you for continuing to stand with us through this crisis. Your upcoming blood drive is very important to ensure we can continue to meet all blood needs in the weeks to come. Our commitment to operate blood drives in the safest way possible for our donors, volunteers and staff remains a top priority.

SAFETY FIRST

At each blood drive, Red Cross staff already follow the highest standards of safety and infection control. In addition to our standard procedures, we have implemented additional precautions that you will notice at your local blood drive:

Wellness and Protection

- Checking temperature of all staff, volunteers and donors before entering blood drive
    - If any staff, volunteer or donor has a temperature greater than 99.5°F they will not be able to donate/work at the drive
- Staff and volunteers will wear gloves throughout entire drive, changing gloves often
- All staff, volunteers and donors will be required to wear face masks or coverings at the blood drive in alignment with CDC public guidelines

Increased Educational Materials

- Donor educational materials on COVID-19
- Stop sign at entrances to avert ineligible donors

Enhanced Disinfecting

- Hand sanitizer will be available at check-in, health history and refreshment areas
- Blood donors will be asked to use hand sanitizer before and during the donation process
- Donors beds will be sanitized between every donor
- Routinely disinfecting common surfaces at drive

Social Distancing

- Set up to allow 6 feet distance between donor areas
- Only blood donors will be permitted at blood drives
- After check-in, donors will be asked to wait in a designated area (or even car), donors may be asked for a phone number to get notified it's their turn

HOW YOU CAN HELP & INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Please communicate to your donors that they will be asked to wear face masks or coverings at your upcoming blood drive in alignment with CDC guidelines. We encourage donors to bring their own mask or covering that covers both their nose and mouth. If a donor does not have a mask, the Red Cross will provide one. If a donor does not want to wear a mask, we ask they postpone their donation for a later date.

- Please schedule appointments for all your donors to help manage donor flow and allow for social distancing. At most drives, walk-ins will not be accepted.

- Inform your donors that guests will not be able to attend drive (e.g. children or teens, unless teen is donating blood).

- Any provided refreshment items must be pre-packaged only (e.g. no pizza, open box donuts, homemade items).

- For areas that may be in restricted travel guidance, please access and print the Essential Service Letter for you and your volunteer's day of drive travel.

- Provide the Volunteer Document to your volunteers, before your blood drive, so they know what to expect. Volunteers helping at your drive may be asked on-site to assist with some of the new safety tasks, training on-site will be provided. If your volunteers are not comfortable completing any tasks, have them inform the charge person at drive.

- Red Cross has joined the FDA's efforts to collect and distribute convalescent plasma to treat patients who are seriously ill or have life-threatening COVID-19 infections. Should you be asked by a donor how to participate, please ask them to visit RedCrossblood.org/plasma4covid to learn more.

- For detailed donor eligibility questions, please have your donors call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org.

- For additional information go to redcrossblood.org to learn more about coronavirus and blood donation.

During this public health emergency, donation information may change in the days and weeks ahead, so please be sure to consult with your Red Cross representative or staff at your blood drive with any questions. Thank you for your support!