



CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) UPDATE

The work of the American Red Cross never stops, thank you for continuing to stand with us during this coronavirus crisis. Your upcoming blood drive is very important to ensure we can meet all blood needs. 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'll notice at your local blood drive:

- Checking temperatures of staff and donors before entering a drive to make sure they are healthy.
• Providing hand sanitizer for use before the drive, as well as throughout the donation process.
• Following social distancing between donors including entry, donation and refreshment areas.
• Ensuring face masks or coverings are worn by both staff and donors.
• Routinely disinfecting surfaces, equipment and donor-touched areas.
• Wearing gloves, and changing gloves often.
• Using sterile collection sets and an aseptic scrub for every donation.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Blood Donor Eligibility Changes: On June 8, the Red Cross implemented donor eligibility changes announced by the FDA. If your donors have questions about their eligibility status, please refer them to our Red Cross Donor and Client Support Center at 1-866-236-3276. Donors can also view the blood donor eligibility page

Table with 3 columns: Eligibility Criteria, New Deferral, Prior Deferral. Rows include: Men having sex with men (MSM), Tattoos/piercings nonregulated states, Malaria-endemic area travel, Europe travel Creutzfeld-Jakob.

- COVID-19 Antibody Testing: The Red Cross is currently testing all blood donations for COVID-19 antibodies, results will be available in 1-2 weeks. The test may indicate if the donor's immune system has produced antibodies to this coronavirus, regardless of whether they developed symptoms. As part of this effort, plasma from whole blood donations that test positive for COVID19 antibodies may now help current coronavirus patients in need of convalescent plasma transfusions. Learn more at RedCrossBlood.org/antibodytesting .

- Convalescent Plasma: 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.

- Refreshment Items at Blood Drives: All food and drinks at blood drives must be single service, individually wrapped packages.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Schedule appointments for all your donors to help manage donor flow and allow for social distancing.
• Inform your donors that guests will not be able to attend drive (e.g. kids or teens, unless teen is donating blood).
• 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.
• Provide the Volunteer Document to your volunteers, before your blood drive, so they know what to expect. Volunteers 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.
• For areas that may still be in restricted travel guidance, please access and print the Essential Service Letter for you and your volunteer's day of drive travel.
• For additional information go to redcrossblood.org to learn more about coronavirus and blood donation.

Thank you for your steadfast support of our lifesaving mission.