

RED CROSS UPDATE 3/18/2020

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) UPDATE

The American Red Cross is closely monitoring the evolving situation regarding the outbreak of the coronavirus disease 2019. While there is no evidence that this coronavirus or any respiratory illness can be transmitted through a blood transfusion, out of abundance of caution, we are taking actions to help ensure the safety of our blood donors, recipients, volunteers, staff and the blood supply.

The Red Cross is asking that individuals postpone their donation for 28 days following:

- **Travel to China, Hong Kong, Macau, Iran, Italy and South Korea;**
- **Diagnosis of Covid-19, contact with a person who has or is suspected to have the virus.**

SAFETY FIRST

Blood donation is a safe process, and people should not hesitate to give and receive blood. At each blood drive, Red Cross employees follow thorough safety protocols regulated by the FDA. In addition to our standard procedures, you will notice the following at your local blood drive:

Pre-Donation Donor Temperature Screening

- All donors will be asked to have their temperature taken before being permitted into a blood drive.
- If a donor has a temperature greater than 99.5 they will be asked to come back to donate when they are healthy and will be asked to leave the drive.

Enhanced Disinfecting

- Hand sanitizer will be provided at check-in, health history and refreshment areas.
- Blood donors will be asked to use hand sanitizer prior to using tablets and laptops.
- Donors beds and equipment will be sanitized between every donor.

Social Distancing

- Implementation of Separated drive set up to allow as much distance as possible between donors.

Staff Wellness and Protection

- All staff members will have a temperature check before presenting to work, and they've been asked not to come to work if they are feeling sick.
- Staff will wear gloves throughout entire blood drive, changing gloves between every donor.

Increased Educational Materials

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

BLOOD SUPPLY PROTECTION

The Red Cross uses safety measures to protect the blood supply from all respiratory viruses including COVID-19.

- In addition to the travel deferral, the health history screening also helps to protect the blood supply.
- Blood is only collected from individuals who are healthy and feeling well at the time of donation.
- Call back number, to connect with trained donor counselors, is provided if donor develops any symptoms of illness within the days following donation. Donations from such donors are immediately quarantined and not used.

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.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Recruit a few additional donors to your blood drive to help offset any individuals that may postpone their donation due to travel to affected areas.
- Educate your donors on the deferral guidelines and the new enhanced safety measures that are being implemented at blood drives to help reduce any fears of donating blood during this time.
- For detailed donor eligibility questions, please have your donors call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org). For more information on the COVID-19, visit the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>.

All donors are encouraged to make an appointment online and it is highly recommended to increase the safety and efficiency of the donation by using Rapid Pass on your own smartphone.



To schedule an appointment, visit [redcrossblood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) enter sponsor code CCF



Use RapidPass to expedite your appointment. Must be used same day as drive. To access, visit [redcrossblood.org/rapidpass](https://www.redcrossblood.org/rapidpass)