

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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **COVID-19 Vaccine and Blood Donor Eligibility Information:** There's new FDA blood donation eligibility guidance for those who receive a COVID-19 vaccination. But good news, there's no deferral time if your donor receives the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. If your donor receives a vaccine, knowing the name of the manufacturer is critical in determining blood donor eligibility. For more information visit [RedCrossBlood.org/covid19](https://www.redcrossblood.org/covid19).
 - Please note: The Red Cross is not a healthcare provider and is not administering COVID-19 vaccinations. We encourage individuals interested in getting a COVID-19 vaccine to contact their healthcare provider.
- **COVID-19 Antibody Testing:** The Red Cross is testing all blood product donations for COVID-19 antibodies.
 - Your donor's upcoming donation may help current coronavirus patients battling the virus - if a donation tests positive, the plasma from their blood donation may be processed into a convalescent plasma product for patients in need.
 - Donors can get their results of the antibody test by logging in to their Blood Donor account on the [Blood Donor App](#) or [online](#) within one to two weeks after their donation.
 - The Red Cross is not testing donors to diagnose illness, referred to as a diagnostic test, and a positive antibody test results do not confirm infection or immunity; a positive antibody test indicates potential prior exposure to the virus.
 - For additional information, please go to [RedCrossBlood.org/antibodytesting](https://www.redcrossblood.org/antibodytesting) to learn more.
- **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](https://www.redcrossblood.org/plasma4covid) to learn more.
- **Refreshment (food/drinks) Items at Blood Drives** must be single-serve, individually wrapped packages.
- **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](#)

Eligibility Criteria	New Deferral	Prior Deferral
Men having sex with men (MSM)	3 mos	12 mos
Tattoos/piercings nonregulated states	3 mos	12 mos
Malaria-endemic area travel	3 mos	12 mos
Europe travel Creutzfeld-Jakob	Varies	Indefinite

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.
- For areas that may have restricted travel guidance, please access, print and use the [Essential Service Letter](#).
 - For additional information go to [redcrossblood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) to learn more about coronavirus and blood donation.

Thank you for your steadfast support of our lifesaving mission.