



What to Know About Coronavirus Disease 2019 and Blood Donation Safety

The top priority of the Red Cross is the safety of our donors, volunteers, employees and blood recipients, and we are committed to transparency with the American public during this evolving public health emergency. There are no data or evidence that this coronavirus can be transmissible by blood transfusion, and there have been no reported cases worldwide of transmissions via blood for any respiratory virus, including this coronavirus.

Donating blood is a safe process and people should not hesitate to give or receive blood, platelets, or AB Elite plasma.

At each blood drive or donation center, Red Cross employees follow thorough safety protocols, including:

- Wearing gloves
- Wiping down donor-touched areas after every collection
- Using sterile collection sets for every donation
- Preparing the arm for donation with aseptic scrub
- Conducting donor mini-physicals to ensure donors are healthy and well on day of donation

We have also increased our vigilance concerning some of these safety protocols including:

- Temperature checks before presenting donors enter the blood drive or donation center
- Social Distancing: seating is spaced in a manner that prevents physical contact between donors
- Providing hand sanitizer for use before entering and throughout the donation appointment
- Enhanced disinfecting of equipment

To ensure our staff are healthy each day, we have implemented standard staff health assessments, which include temperature checks, prior to all blood drives.

Finally, only eligible and healthy people are allowed to give blood. These mitigation measures will help ensure blood recipient safety, as well as staff and donor safety.

Travel and Deferral Information

We are now asking that individuals postpone their donation for 28 days following: Travel to China and its special administrative regions, Hong Kong and Macau, as well as Iran, Italy and South Korea; Diagnosis of COVID-19, contact with a person who has the virus, or is suspected to have it.

As the situation evolves, the Red Cross will continue to evaluate all emerging risks in collaboration with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and industry partners to determine if additional intervention strategies are needed. Together, we stand ready to keep the American public informed and prepared.

Blood Drive Site Requirements:

Right now, the Red Cross is looking for blood drive hosts to help maintain blood inventory levels. Each and every blood drive is vital. We would work with you in advance to review any blood drive sites and answer any questions you may have. In general, the location would have:

- Minimum 1500 sq. ft.
- Minimum 4 electrical outlets
- Donation site is in one room with no obstacles (i.e. columns)

- Bathrooms are close to donation site on same floor
- Site has ability to control temperature in the room (AC or heat)
- Sponsor will accept wireless equipment; site has nothing to impact wireless signal
- Site has good lighting
- Parking is accessible for donors, staff; easy access to unloading of equipment (ramp or dock if needed)