



America's Blood Centers[®]
It's About *Life.*

General Talking Points:

- The U.S. blood supply is facing an unprecedented situation as our nation coordinates response efforts to COVID-19.
- A large portion of all blood drives through July have been canceled, thus blood centers will have an ongoing need for individuals to continue to donate throughout the pandemic and the summer months.
- Blood centers across the country are taking extra measures to ensure both donors and staff are safe and healthy, including social distancing measures and increased infection control procedures in donor waiting rooms and donation chairs.
- All donors are screened to ensure they are healthy and feeling well. Individuals should not donate blood if they are feeling ill. Each donor also goes through a mini physical that includes a temperature check as well as a visual check on the donor's well-being (coughing, nose draining, hard time breathing, etc.).
- To assist blood centers with social distancing measures, individuals are strongly encouraged to make appointments, and will be needed on a continual basis over next several weeks and months to replenish the nation's blood supply through the summer ensuring blood is available for patients in need.
- Blood donation is not a mass gathering or social event and is a designated essential service that individuals can and should leave their homes for, even during shelter in place measures. Individuals who are healthy and eligible to donate are encouraged to schedule an appointment to do so in order to maintain an available blood supply.
- There is no intrinsic risk to the safety of the blood supply, but there is risk to the availability of blood for patients in need because of an increase in canceled donation appointments and blood drives.
- There is no known risk of transmission of COVID-19 through the blood donation process or from blood transfusions.