

COVID19 Email to Coordinators  
March 10, 2020



***"Giving blood matters.  
I'm living proof of that"***

**-Alyssa Gattermeyer**



I am writing to thank you for your valued service as a blood drive coordinator. Without you and your organization, we would not be able to meet the needs of patients in our local hospitals. Today I am appealing to you as we are in the midst of a national blood shortage brought on by the outbreak of COVID19 (coronavirus).

I would like to reassure you and your organization that blood donation is a safe, sterile process and there is no risk of contracting the virus by donating blood. Therefore, it is critical that blood drives and donation appointments continue as scheduled. The coronavirus outbreak poses no additional risk to blood donors for the mere fact of being blood donors, either during the donation process or from attending organized blood drives. COVID-19 also poses no additional risk to patients receiving blood transfusions. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have maintained their recommendation that no additional action by blood centers is warranted at this time, and we remain in regular contact with both agencies regarding changes to donation eligibility and screening criteria.

While no cases of COVID-19 have been identified in the immediate area, Hoxworth Blood Center will implement additional safety measures beginning on Tuesday, March 10 out of an abundance of caution and to ensure that Hoxworth staff are not a source of transmission. Blood center employees that are within one meter of contact with donors and visitors will be provided with face masks and gloves to wear. At donor centers and blood drives, gloves will be changed between donors during phlebotomy and screening.

Again, we sincerely appreciate your dedication as we cannot save lives without you. It is the blood on the shelf that saves lives - therefore we must continue to hold blood drives. Should you have any questions about your upcoming drive or our protocols, please feel free to reach out to your specific Blood Drive Recruiter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jose Cancelas'.

Jose Cancelas, MD, PhD  
Director, Hoxworth Blood Center

Your next lifesaving donation could save someone like Alyssa.  
To schedule your next donation **or to learn about hosting a blood drive**  
please call (513) 451-0910 or visit [hoxworth.org](http://hoxworth.org)

**You're going to save a life!**



© 2019 - - 3130 Highland Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45267, (513) 451-0910 - - If you have been told previously by Hoxworth Blood Center or another blood center that you should never donate blood, please disregard this message. If you recently made a blood donation, or if you have already scheduled an appointment to donate blood, please accept our thanks on behalf of the patients whose lives you may have touched. You may not give blood if you have received a notification from Hoxworth Blood Center asking you not to do so. Those who are in generally good health and meet the age and weight requirements may be eligible to donate blood. Please bring a photo ID when you come to donate.