



**American
Red Cross**

Blood Program
Leader

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) UPDATE

The American Red Cross continues to closely monitor the evolving situation of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Due to the amazing outpouring of community support we are able to meet immediate patient needs. Thank you for continuing to stand with us through this crisis. Your upcoming blood drive is very important to ensure we can continue to meet all blood needs in the weeks to come. Our commitment to operate blood drive 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 will notice at your local blood drive:

Pre-Donation Temperature Screening

- All donors will be asked to have their temperature taken before being permitted into the blood drive
- If a donor has a temperature greater than 99.5°F they will be asked to donate another time instead

Enhanced Disinfecting

- Hand sanitizer will be available at check-in, health history and refreshment areas
- Blood donors will be asked to use hand sanitizer before and during the donation process
- Donors beds will be sanitized between every donor

Increased Educational Materials

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

Social Distancing

- Set up to allow 6 feet distance between donor areas
- Only blood donors will be permitted at blood drives
- After check-in, donors will be asked to wait in a designated area (or even car), donors may be asked for a phone number to get notified it's their turn

Staff and Volunteer Wellness and Protection

- All staff and volunteers will have a temperature check at the blood drive, if temperature is greater than 99.5°F they will not be able to work
- Staff and volunteers will wear gloves throughout entire drive, changing gloves between every donor
- Staff and volunteers who will be in close proximity with donors for a prolonged period of time will wear basic face masks. Please note, Red Cross does not have face masks for donors at drives to provide

HOW YOU CAN HELP & INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Please schedule appointments for all your donors to help manage donor flow and social distancing. At most drives, walk-ins will not be accepted.
- Educate your donors on the enhanced safety precautions by sharing the [Share Your Health Infographic](#) to help reduce fears of donating blood and use the [Online Guide](#) to update your network on the need for blood.
- Provide the [Volunteer Document](#) to your volunteers, before your blood drive, so they know what to expect. Volunteers helping at your drive may be asked on-site to assist with some of the new safety tasks, training on-site will be provided. If your volunteers are not comfortable completing these tasks, please have them inform the charge person at the drive. In addition, volunteers must have their temperatures taken to ensure they are healthy to work.
- Inform your donors that guests will not be able to attend drive (e.g. children or teens, unless teen is donating blood).
- Any provided refreshment items must be pre-packaged only (e.g. no pizza, open box donuts, homemade items).
- For areas that may be in restricted travel guidance, please access and print the [Essential Service Letter](#) for you and your volunteer's day of drive travel.
- For detailed donor eligibility questions, please have your donors call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org.
- For additional information go to redcrossblood.org to learn more about Coronavirus and Blood Donation.

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. Thank you for your support!