



# **CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) UPDATE**

The American Red Cross continues to closely monitor the evolving situation of COVID-19. 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. There is currently an urgent need for blood donors of all blood types to give now. 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 will notice at your local blood drive:

#### Wellness and Protection

- Checking temperature of all staff, volunteers and donors before entering blood drive
  - If any staff, volunteer or donor has a temperature greater than 99.5°F they will not be able to donate/work at the drive
- Staff and volunteers will wear gloves throughout entire drive, changing gloves often
- All staff, volunteers and donors will be required to wear face masks or coverings at the blood drive in alignment with CDC public guidelines

#### **Increased Educational Materials**

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

## **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
- Routinely disinfecting common surfaces at drive

### 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

### HOW YOU CAN HELP & INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW

- Please 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.
- Please 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. children or teens, unless teen is donating blood).
- All food and drinks at drives must be single service, individually wrapped packages. (e.g. no pizza/donuts, homemade items).
- For areas that may be in restricted travel guidance, please access and print the <u>Essential Service Letter</u> for you and your volunteer's day of drive travel.
- Provide the <u>Volunteer Document</u> 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 any tasks, have them inform the charge person at drive.
- 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 to learn more.
- 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!