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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Memorial Blood Centers Is Testing All Donations for the COVID-19 Antibodies

December 28, 2020 (St Paul, MN) – Amid the ongoing challenges of recruiting blood donors during the COVID-19 pandemic, local nonprofit Memorial Blood Centers (MBC) is facing a shortage of blood and platelet donations.

The need for blood is constant, but due to the pandemic, many drives have been canceled or postponed. To replenish supplies for Twin Cities' hospitals, trauma centers, and air ambulance bases, more healthy donors are needed at blood drives and donor centers in the coming weeks. Appointments can be made online at MBC.ORG or by calling 1-888-GIVE-BLD (888-448-3253).

Through January 31st, MBC will test all donations for COVID-19 Antibodies. In addition Memorial Blood Centers is collecting convalescent plasma from people who have recovered from COVID-19 in efforts to help treat the virus (MBC.ORG/CPdonor).

As a thank you, all presenting donors will receive a limited edition long sleeve T-Shirt along with a voucher for free coffee at local area Dunkin locations through January 31, 2021. Additional Dunkin drawings for Free Coffee for a Year and \$25 gift cards will occur throughout the month.

More than 50% of the blood supply was lost when community blood drives were cancelled due to COVID-19 this year, and the supply remains low (less than a 3-day supply of all blood types). Blood drives are resuming, with additional precautions at all donation sites; appointments are preferred to help maintain social distancing, and donors are required to wear a face mask or face covering.

Blood donation is safe and essential, and MBC has a [COVID-19 self-screening policy](#) in addition to general eligibility guidelines. In general, you may be eligible to donate if you are:

- In good health
- 17 years or older—or 16 with written parental consent (PDF available on MBC.ORG)
- At least 110 pounds
- Free of antibiotics for 24 hours, unless taken for preventative reasons
- Symptom-free for at least 72 hours following a cold or flu

Visit MBC.ORG to find your nearest drive or donor center, or to make an appointment at one of the public blood drives below. Pop-up locations at Maplewood Mall and Ridgedale Center are now open

Date	Sponsor	Location	City	Time
1/6/21	Eden Prairie High School	11000 Blossom Rd	Eden Prairie	11:00am-6:00pm
1/13/21	Immanuel Lutheran Church	16515 Luther Way	Eden Prairie	3:00pm-6:00pm

About Memorial Blood Centers

Memorial Blood Centers (MBC) has been saving lives since 1948 as an independent nonprofit. MBC relies on the local community to donate blood to help ensure a safe and stable blood supply is available to area hospitals and other partners throughout the country. With operations in Minnesota and Wisconsin, MBC is a division of New York Blood Centers Enterprises (NYBCe), serving communities across the country. For more information, call 1-888-GIVE-BLD (1-888-448-3253) or visit MBC.ORG. Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

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