



## CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) UPDATE EFFECTIVE JULY 24, 2020

The work of the American Red Cross never stops, thank you for continuing to stand with us during this coronavirus crisis. Our commitment to operate blood drives in the safest way possible for our donors, volunteers and staff remains a top priority.

[Click Here](#) to find a Blood Donation location and time.

### 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'll notice at your local blood drive:

- Checking temperatures of staff and donors before entering a drive to make sure they are healthy.

- Providing hand sanitizer for use before the drive, as well as throughout the donation process.
- Following social distancing between donors including entry, donation and refreshment areas.
- Ensuring face masks or coverings are worn by both staff and donors.
- Routinely disinfecting surfaces, equipment and donor-touched areas.
- Wearing gloves, and changing gloves often.
- Using sterile collection sets and an aseptic scrub for every donation.

### ADDITIONAL INFO

- **Blood Donor Eligibility Changes:** On June 8, the Red Cross implemented donor eligibility changes announced by the FDA. If your donors have questions about their eligibility status, please refer them to our Red Cross Donor and Client Support Center at 1-866-236-3276. Donors can also view the [blood donor eligibility page](#).
- **COVID-19 Antibody Testing:** Starting June 15, for a limited time, the Red Cross began testing blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies as an additional health service to our donors. Visit [RedCrossBlood.org/antibodytesting](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org/antibodytesting) for complete details and more information.
- **Convalescent Plasma:** 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](https://www.RedCrossblood.org/plasma4covid) to learn more.
- **Refreshment Items at Blood Drives:** All food and drinks at blood drives must be single service, individually wrapped packages.