



# KEY POINTS: COVID-19

**BLOOD DONATION IS SAFE.** Blood drives and donor centers are safe environments where staff and donors are screened to be sure they are healthy and well and have not been exposed to the virus to be present. They are not mass gatherings for the purpose of social distancing.

**IT'S THE BLOOD ON THE SHELF** from regular donors that saves lives. Blood is a critical resource for patients and the blood center must maintain 24/7 operations during this Pandemic to ensure life-saving treatment can continue.

**BLOOD HAS A SHORT SHELF LIFE** and must be constantly replenished. Red blood cells can be transfused within 42 days, while platelets and thawed plasma must be transfused within 5 days. We must rely on volunteers to continue to donate blood and to continue to host blood drives in our communities in order ensure hospitals and patients have what they need.

**HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS ARE NEEDED** now and in the next few months to donate blood for patients.

**PLEASE MAKE AND KEEP APPOINTMENTS** and drive commitments to ensure an adequate supply.

We are working to prevent blood shortages locally.

- 60% of the blood supply comes from mobile blood drive events.
- Blood drives and donor centers should be exempt from restrictions placed on social gatherings for social distancing measures because it is an essential healthcare service that requires face-to-face interaction to perform collection procedures.
- Individuals present to donate at staggered times and are processed separately through a safe and controlled environment. Collection staff have a capacity of processing only one or two donors per hour, so volumes of people are limited.
- Blood Center Staff are following protocol to ensure health and safety are maintained.

**THE BLOOD SUPPLY IS SAFE.** There is no evidence this virus can be transmitted by a transfusion, nor has there been with the two related viruses, SARS-1 and MERS-CoV that have caused epidemics since 2000.

**STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS** should stay home if they are not feeling well or if they have been exposed to someone who is being tested or has tested positive for COVID-19.

**BLOODCENTER.ORG**