



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Community Blood Services of Illinois  
**CONTACT**  
Kirby Winn  
Manager, Public Relations  
kwinn@mvrbc.org | (563) 349-1571

**Blood Center marks five months of COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma donation**

**Donors have provided more than 1000 doses since April 2020; patient need for Convalescent Plasma continues**

**(Sept. 1, 2020 | Urbana, Ill.)** – Donors who have recovered from a COVID-19 infection have now provided more than 1000 units of COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma (CCP) for hospitals served by Community Blood Services of Illinois. The Blood Center began working with donors who have recovered from a COVID-19 infection in April 2020, as the first donors who had recovered from a COVID-19 infection became eligible to donate. Community Blood Services is now entering the sixth month of collecting COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma, or CCP, and patient need for COVID-19 antibodies remains strong.

Convalescent plasma donations contain antibodies to the COVID-19 virus and are used in the treatment of patients currently hospitalized with a COVID-19 infection. Potential donors who can provide documentation of a laboratory-confirmed positive test for COVID-19 and meet other health and safety criteria are scheduled for CCP donations at a nearby Donor Center or mobile blood drive. Individual donors and care providers may refer themselves or their patients via the referral form available at [www.bloodcenter.org](http://www.bloodcenter.org) or by calling (833) 610-1025. For additional information, potential donors or physicians may send inquiries to [patientservices@mvrbc.org](mailto:patientservices@mvrbc.org).

Research into the effectiveness of this treatment continues at a national level. Initially, the Blood Center’s provision of CCP was authorized under the National Expanded Access Treatment Protocol (EAP). Earlier this month, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration updated its authorization for CCP by issuing an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for investigational convalescent plasma.

Jose Rodriguez (pictured, right) gave plasma after recovering from a COVID-19 infection. “I had a fever and body aches, and lost sense of smell and taste,” said Rodriguez, who recovered from his infection at home. “Now I want to do anything I can do to help make someone feel better.”

**CCP Donation Totals**

After five months of collecting CCP donations, MVRBC has scheduled appointments with 321 qualified donors across its service region. The collection is done with a machine at the donor’s side that automatically separates plasma and then returns remaining blood components to the donor. With many scheduling multiple appointments, donors have provided more than 500 donations that can each give three to four doses. Since beginning in April, the Blood Center has provided more than 1000 doses of convalescent plasma for patient care.



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CCP donors must be fully recovered from their COVID-19 infection and must meet all standard eligibility criteria for blood donation. Plasma will only be collected from donors with laboratory-confirmed tests, preferably with a test called “PCR”, showing the donor had a COVID-19 infection. Donors must be at least 28 days from the last date they had respiratory symptoms (cough, shortness of breath) or fever. Qualified donors are scheduled for appointments at a nearby Donor Center or mobile blood drive.

### **About Community Blood Services of Illinois**

Community Blood Services of Illinois (CBSI) is a division of Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center, not-for-profit provider of blood products and services to 115 hospitals in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Wisconsin, including Carle Foundation Hospital and OSF HealthCare Heart of Mary Medical Center in Champaign-Urbana, Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center in Mattoon, and OSF HealthCare Sacred Heart Medical Center in Danville.

The Blood Center’s [service region](#) extends from southwestern Wisconsin to St. Louis, Missouri and from Danville, Illinois to Chariton, Iowa. For more information, see [www.bloodcenter.org](http://www.bloodcenter.org) and visit the Blood Center’s social media channels: [www.facebook.com/MVRBC](https://www.facebook.com/MVRBC), [www.twitter.com/willyougive](https://www.twitter.com/willyougive), [www.youtube.com/MVRBC](https://www.youtube.com/MVRBC), and [www.instagram.com/willyougive/](https://www.instagram.com/willyougive/).

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**Note:** for additional information and graphics to enhance coverage of COVID19 Convalescent Plasma, see the following information on the Blood Center’s web site:

- [COVID19 Convalescent Plasma information page](#)
- [COVID19 Convalescent Plasma Marketing Toolkit](#)