



America's Blood Centers[®]
It's About *Life.*

1717 K Street NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20006
Tel: 202-393-5725 | Fax: 202-899-2621

www.AmericasBlood.org

ABC Statement on COVID-19

Updated April 3, 2020

America's Blood Centers (ABC) continues its efforts to monitor and respond to the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) with the safety of the U.S. blood supply and blood donors our top priority. There is no known risk to the safety of the nation's blood supply.

The U.S. blood supply is facing an unprecedented situation as our nation coordinates response efforts to COVID-19. A large portion of all blood drives through the summer months have been cancelled, thus blood centers will have an ongoing need for individuals to continue to donate throughout the pandemic. **ABC strongly encourages all healthy individuals to [schedule appointments to donate blood in the coming weeks and months.](#)** Healthy, eligible donors of all ages and ethnicities are needed as the blood supply must be constantly replenished.

Blood donation is not a mass gathering or social event and is a designated essential service that individuals can and should leave their homes for, even during shelter in place measures. Blood centers are taking extra precautions to ensure the safety of donors and their staff by implementing social distancing measures and increased infection control protocols. In addition, all donors go through a mini-physical that includes a temperature check as well as a visual check on the donor's well-being (coughing, nose draining, hard time breathing, etc.).

The support of new and current blood donors is critical to maintaining an adequate blood supply for the patients that rely on the generosity of donors every day. Every 2 seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood and more than 33,000 pints of blood must be collected daily. However, less than five percent of Americans currently donate each year. To find your local blood center, visit www.americasblood.org.