

# Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Blood Donation/Drive Fact Sheet



**American  
Red Cross**

In response to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), government agencies recommend limiting social gatherings exceeding 10 people for non-essential activity. **It is very important to understand, that the American Red Cross mission IS an essential service, like hospitals, grocers, pharmacies, energy and transportation infrastructure, that will remain in service as part of emergency preparedness plans.** Blood products are direct support to hospitals responding to the virus.

**Following is guidance that blood drives are a safe process and blood donation must continue:**

[Health and Human Services and the Food and Drug Administration](#) video

[U.S. Surgeon General](#) video

[Center for Disease Control](#) statement-call for donations

[Food and Drug Administration](#) statement-call for donations

[FEMA](#) FAQs citing need for donations



**As of 3/22, 6,000 American Red Cross blood drives have been cancelled, resulting in about 200,000 fewer blood donations.**

“I want Americans to know that blood donation is safe and blood centers are taking extra precautions at this time based on new CDC recommendations, including spacing beds 6 ft apart, disinfecting surfaces between patients, temperature-checking staff, and encouraging donors to make appointments ahead of time so we can space them out. Social distancing does not have to mean social disengagement, so give blood today. You’ll feel good about it, and you’ll be helping your country and your community during this crisis, and you might even save a life.”

—U.S. Surgeon General, Jerome Adams, speaking at the White House, 3/19/20

The Surgeon General is right. What makes us most vulnerable in this challenging time is also our greatest strength—our humanity. In response to his public comments and those of other government agencies calling for blood donation to continue, the Red Cross has received an influx of donors seeking drives. Our current priority is finding suitable site locations to place blood drives nationwide. If you can share a site(s) that meets the criteria below, we can share lifesaving blood with the most vulnerable among us.

## **Blood Drive Site Suitability Guidelines for COVID-19**

Space Requirements – Minimum of 1200 sq ft, preferably no obstacles (e.g., columns)

- Covered areas enabling social distancing, each accommodating an area of 6 ft between people
- Location on the first floor, or with minimal stairs/elevator access
- Can utilize rooms, lobbies, hallways

### **Main Areas**

- Pre-Screen Area (to take presenting donor temperatures for added precaution)
  - Separated from other areas, as external a location as space allows
  - Parking lot with donors screened while in their cars can be an alternative
- Queuing Area
  - Separated from other areas, ideally accommodating 6 ft between people (though we will also seek to stagger appointment slots to avoid queuing)
- Health History Area
- Collection Area – Beds spaced 6 ft apart
- Recovery/Post Collection Area
- Canteen Area – Non-permeable, wipeable chairs spaced 6 ft apart

To express interest in serving as a site location, please visit <https://rcblood.org/impact>. We’re so grateful for your partnership!