



Coronavirus Update

bloodworksnw.org



Questions and Answers for Donors About Coronavirus

How is coronavirus impacting the local blood supply?

When a virus as new and unknown as the Coronavirus hits our communities, it's natural to experience the stress of uncertainty. While this virus is not yet widely spread in the United States, global circumstances suggest that it could become a pandemic. And we're certainly feeling the effects locally as we've seen 200 fewer donors than we normally would at this time due to blood drive and appointment cancellations. To ensure an adequate blood supply it is imperative that healthy, eligible individuals donate blood so that an adequate blood supply can be maintained at all times.

Why are donors needed to give right now?

For the safety of our community, it's critical that people continue to donate blood every day at our centers and mobile blood drives. We need 1,000 donors each and every day to maintain a safe and reliable local blood supply. A sudden drop in blood donations will have serious consequences that put surgeries and patients at risk. This week alone, we need 3,400 red blood cells and 800 platelets to help people with cancer, transplant, and trauma. Hospitals and patients rely on us. They rely on you.

Is it safe to donate blood?

Donating blood is a safe activity. Individuals are not at risk of contracting coronavirus through the blood donation process. Bloodworks policies comply with FDA, CDC, local health departments, and other applicable recommendations related to COVID-19 (coronavirus); and is closely monitoring our local situation. We also routinely sanitize our donation areas, chairs, surfaces and common objects like door knobs and light switches, and use hand sanitizer. (Source: [AABB](#))

Why is donating blood important for coronavirus preparedness?

As part of your own emergency preparedness, remember to donate blood. If you're headed to the store or pharmacy to stock up on some essential items, include donating blood on that list.

and help stock up our supplies as well. It only takes an hour and is something tangible you can do to make a difference in maintaining a safe and stable blood supply for everyone.

Severely ill patients with COVID-19 will need platelet and red blood cell transfusions. If the outbreak continues to spread, additional challenges could arise, which could potentially reduce the number of eligible donors down the road, so your donation now is vital to being prepared.

Could I potentially expose a patient to coronavirus by donating blood?

Routine blood donor screening methods that are already in place would be expected to reliably protect the blood supply, and it's important to note that there have been no reported cases of transfusion-transmitted coronavirus anywhere in the world. (Source: [FDA](#))

And if you're feeling unwell for any reason, please do not come in. You may [contact us](#) to reschedule your appointment. We'd love to see you when you're healthy, symptom-free of any cold or virus, and feeling better.

How do I make an appointment?

Call us at 800-398-7888, visit bloodworksnw.org, or text bloodapp to 91985 to download our app to find a convenient time and place to donate. Information about who can donate and how is available at <https://www.bloodworksnw.org/donate/eligibility>

We'll post the latest coronavirus updates at bloodworksnw.org/coronavirus.