

JANUARY 2021 BLOOD DONOR MONTH

Did You Know?

"Blood donations typically drop off during and immediately after the winter holidays, which makes National Blood Donor Month in January a critical time for the American Red Cross. Busy schedules, holiday breaks, inclement weather and winter illnesses contribute to fewer blood and platelet donations. The Red Cross needs to collect more than 13,000 donations every day to keep the blood supply ready and available to meet the needs of about 2,600 hospitals, clinics and cancer centers across the country."

- American Red Cross

FACTS

Each day life-saving blood transfusions are needed in hospitals and emergency treatment facilities across the U.S.



There are more than 13.2 million blood donors in the United States, resulting in a total of 17.2 million transfused blood product units per year.

Most patients do not experience any side effects from blood transfusions. On rare occasions, blood transfusions can cause adverse reactions in the patients receiving blood.

Although the U.S. blood supply is safer than ever before, some bacteria, viruses, prions, and parasites can be transmitted by blood transfusions. Each donor is screened for risk of transmissible disease by questionnaire, and each unit of blood donated in the U.S. is routinely screened for various infectious disease pathogens using FDA approved assays.

COVID-19 has put a strain on blood donations and national supply. During this critical time, it's important that those who are willing and able to donate understand the process.

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

DONATION

Is it safe to donate due to the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19)?



The donation process itself poses no risk of infecting a donor with coronavirus. If you'd like to donate blood, you are likely able if you've been symptom free for 14 days. If you've had COVID-19, your plasma may be used to help cure others.

Is antibody testing available if I suspect that I had COVID-19?

Antibody testing may be done on successfully completed blood donations.

How can donors prepare for their blood donation?

Get a good night's sleep, eat a healthy meal and stay hydrated before, during and after your appointment.

How can I donate/host a blood drive?

The following resources are available online for more info:

www.donate.indiana.versiti.org
www.redcross.org/give-blood
www.redcrossblood.org
<https://www.cdc.gov/bloodsafety>