



**American
Red Cross**

From the Office of Pampee Young, Chief Medical Officer

Dear Valued Red Cross Partner,

With constant news coverage of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), it's easy to be swept up in misinformation and fear. Please know that the American Red Cross is monitoring and adapting daily to the evolving situation. There are a few key points I'd like to share with you.

ESSENTIAL ACTIVITY

As organizations limit all “non-essential activity”, **your blood drive is an essential activity, as outlined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).** It is an imperative part of community health and public preparedness plans to maintain blood collection during this challenging time to ensure patient survival. **For more from the CDC on the urgent need for blood collection, [watch this video.](#)**

NO TRANSMISSION BY BLOOD

There have been no reported cases of **any** respiratory virus being transmitted by blood, including this coronavirus (COVID-19). Donating blood is a safe process and people should not hesitate to give blood.

ALWAYS CAUTIOUS

The Red Cross always employs thorough safety protocols to help prevent the spread of any type of infection. In response to COVID-19, we've implemented additional precautionary methods, including but not limited to:

- All donors are temperature-screened before being permitted into the blood drive. If bodily temperature is above 99.5°F, the donor is asked to donate another time instead
- All Red Cross staff are asked to check their temperature before presenting to work, and will not to report for work if they are showing any symptoms or test above 99.5°F
- Blood donors are asked to use hand sanitizer before and during the donation process
- Staff wear gloves throughout the donation process, changing gloves between every donor
- Donor beds are sanitized between every donor
- We're implementing medically-recommended space between donors wherever possible. Building drive locations are especially helpful in facilitating social distancing.
- Each day we assess the need and opportunity to enhance our precautions; We will always put the safety of our volunteer partners and staff first.

NEED NEVER STOPS

Our commitment is tested every year with unexpected weather and illness events—it is during this time that we must hold tighter to our humanity and protect the most vulnerable among us.

Thank you for your steadfast support. We will continue to update you on our response at [RedCross.org](https://www.redcross.org).

With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pampee P. Young".

Pampee P. Young, M.D., Ph.D.
Chief Medical Officer
American Red Cross