

March 17, 2020

Dear Valued Donor,

We wanted to update you about changes to our screening process. Last week we reached out with information related to travel to certain countries. As you know the information regarding COVID-19 is evolving daily and as such we have changed the questions that we will be asking our donors as we continue to work to ensure the availability and safety of our blood supply.

We would like to reiterate that **there is no evidence that this coronavirus is transmissible by blood transfusion and there have been no reported cases of transfusion transmission for any respiratory virus, including coronavirus.** However, for the safety of blood donors and staff, the Boston Children's Hospital Blood Donor Center has implemented temporary donor screening out of an abundance of caution. We are now asking:

- Within the last 14 days have you or a household member had close contact with a symptomatic person **diagnosed** with COVID-19?  
AND
- Do you have fever, cough, OR difficulty breathing?

If the answer to one or both of those questions is **'YES'**, please reschedule your donation appointment for 14 days after your symptoms resolve.

Additionally, at the Blood Donor Center and on our Bloodmobile, we follow thorough infection prevention and safety protocols to protect donors, staff, and the safety of the blood product and recipient. These measures include:

- practicing hand hygiene
- wearing gloves
- routinely wiping down donor chairs after each donor
- wiping down surfaces (counters, chairs, computer keyboards and accessories, door handles, etc.)
- using sterile, single use collection sets for every donation
- using single use, disposable foam stars for donors to squeeze while donating
- preparing the arm with an aseptic scrub.

We are also partnering with our blood drive sponsor organizations to educate them on additional prevention actions Boston Children's is taking to protect staff and donors while at a blood drive. These actions may include pre-screening of donors and spreading the timing of when donors present for their donation.

**There is no substitute for human blood and it is the blood that is already on the shelves that saves lives. We strongly urge healthy individuals to make and keep their scheduled donation appointments and blood drives to minimize disruptions to the blood supply and help maintain a safe blood supply for our patients in need.**

Should you have any questions or you would like to confirm eligibility requirements prior to your donation, please contact the Blood Donor Center at 617-355-6677.

Thank you,  
The Boston Children's Hospital Blood Donor Center