

# COVID-19 FAQ FOR BLOOD DRIVES

 LifeStream Blood Bank

LifeStream is absolutely committed to the safety of our donors, patients, employees, and communities.

Blood donation activities are NOT classified as a gathering, but rather, are an **essential healthcare service**.

Donors are only in collection areas for the duration of the donation process.

For more information about LifeStream's COVID-19 response, visit:  
[LStream.org/covid-19/](https://LStream.org/covid-19/)

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## It's OK to Give Blood!

During the COVID-19 Pandemic Task Force press briefing on March 19, 2020, US Surgeon General Jerome Adams said, **“One thing we should all consider, especially our Millennials and GenZs, is donating blood...donated blood is an essential part of caring for patients and one donation can save up to three lives. Blood centers are open now and in need of your donation...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.”**

Giving blood is something healthy individuals can do to help the sick. The only source for blood is another human being and right now blood supplies are dwindling. All eligible and healthy donors are strongly urged to make an appointment immediately to prevent shortages.

## Safety

Due to the nature of the virus, it is highly unlikely that it can be transmitted through blood transfusions – there are no suspected or reported cases.

There is no inherent risk of getting coronavirus or any other virus from the donation procedure itself as blood donation does not impact or weaken a donor’s immune system.

Donors must be feeling well and free of respiratory illness symptoms, including fever, to be eligible to donate. LifeStream is advising potential donors to stay away if they have been exposed to someone suspected of having a COVID-19 infection. Signage is posted at entry locations for all blood collection sites, including mobile collection sites, with these instructions.

Potential donors are screened prior to entering the collection area. Screening includes questions regarding recent travel, contact with persons diagnosed with COVID-19, current symptoms consistent with COVID-19, and a temperature check.

Healthcare workers that have provided direct care for patients suspected/confirmed COVID-19 within the last 28 days are asked to wait to donate.

LifeStream follows the FDA-regulated donor pre-screening process, and it is, and always has been a requirement that donors are well and healthy.

## Steps We're Taking

We are requiring staff to self-monitor, including temperature checks, to ensure they are healthy before arriving to work. Staff who don't feel well are required to stay home.

LifeStream staff adhere to rigorous safety and disinfection protocol, including wearing gloves and personal protective gear, wiping down donor-touched areas often and after every collection, using sterile collection sets for every donation/collection, and arm scrubbing for 30 seconds.

LifeStream is following the recommendations of our government officials in regards to wearing face masks and all LifeStream staff are required to wear a face covering. We also require all donors to wear a face covering.

Precautionary measures are taken in our canteen area; snacks are not left out in common areas and are given to donors by LifeStream personnel in addition to frequent cleaning of the canteen area.

We are spacing chairs 6 feet apart in waiting and donation areas. We are limiting the number of people permitted in the donor centers and mobile drives. We may ask you to leave a mobile phone number and wait in your car until your turn is called.

## COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma

LifeStream is helping direct collection and processing of blood plasma donations from recovered COVID-19 patients and developing technologies to detect and quantify virus-fighting antibodies.

Individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 may have immune-boosting antibodies in their plasma – called “convalescent plasma” – that could be used to treat critically ill COVID-19 patients. Criteria for eligibility are available at [LStream.org/covidplasma/](https://LStream.org/covidplasma/) and potential donors may be referred using instructions on that site.

**“Though convalescent plasma has not been fully proven to be effective in patients with COVID-19, there are encouraging signs from early studies. By collecting this product, LifeStream is proud to help hospitals develop better understanding of the use of convalescent plasma for patients in desperate need.”**

– Joe Chaffin, MD, LifeStream's Chief Medical Officer.

To learn more about our COVID-19  
Convalescent Plasma program, visit:  
[LStream.org/covidplasma/](https://LStream.org/covidplasma/)