BOSTON CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL - BLOOD DONOR PROGRAM OPERATIONS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

The Boston Children’s Hospital Blood Donor Program is committed to the safety of our donors, patients, and staff and have implemented numerous preparedness measures that will allow us to continue to collect blood products in our Donor Center and on our Bloodmobile for our patients in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. In conjunction with federal and state recommendations and guidance from the FDA, CDC, and AABB’s (American Association of Blood Banks) Inter-organizational Disaster Task Force, we continue to work to ensure the safety and availability of our blood supply.

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.

To book your appointment, visit: www.halfpints.childrenshospital.org or call us at (617)355-6677

IT IS SAFE TO GIVE BLOOD!

It is important to note, 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.

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:

- Wearing face masks at all times (donors and staff)
- Practicing hand hygiene and wearing gloves
- Routinely wiping down donor chairs after each donor as well as all high-touch surface areas (counters, chairs, computer keyboards and accessories, door handles, etc.) with disinfecting wipes
- Using sterile, single use collection sets for every donation and preparing the arm with an aseptic scrub
- Using single use, disposable foam stars for donors to squeeze while donating

Additionally, all staff are screened every day for any COVID-19 related symptoms before they start work and are required to leave work if they feel any symptoms during the day. Staff who don’t feel well are required to stay home.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

BLOOD DONOR CENTER
- Chairs in the waiting area are spaced apart
- Donor Chairs are spaced 6 feet apart
- We are limiting the amount of people in the Donor Center
- Donors will be taken by appointment only

BLOODMOBILE
- Histories will be done off of the bus as allowable
- Limited number of staff and donors on the Bloodmobile
- Reduced donor schedule by appointment only
- Disposable, single-use reading materials and pens
- You may be asked to wait in your car until it is your turn to be taken for donation

DONOR SCREENING

Prior to entering the Donor Center or Bloodmobile, donors will be pre-screened with the following questions and asked to reschedule their appointment either 14 or 28 days after symptoms resolve if they answer ‘yes’ to any of the questions below:

- Do you have fever, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, difficulty breathing, chills, or new onset of loss of taste or smell? (14 day deferral)
- Have you been diagnosed with or tested positive for COVID-19? (28 day deferral)
- Have you lived with a person who has had COVID-19 or have you had significant exposure to someone who has had COVID-19? (28 day deferral)