

CORONAVIRUS FEARS PUT LOCAL BLOOD SUPPLY AT RISK CBC URGING DONORS TO MAKE & KEEP APPOINTMENTS TO DONATE

DAYTON, Ohio – Community Blood Center is facing blood drive cancellations out of fear of the coronavirus outbreak and is calling on donors to help prevent a blood shortage by continuing to donate.

At this time a growing number of sponsors have cancelled CBC blood drives or changed locations citing temporary measures to guard against the coronavirus. There is not a current blood shortage in CBC's 15-county region of western Ohio and eastern Indiana, but CBC warns supply could change dramatically.

"We are facing a serious challenge to our local blood supply," said CBC Chief Operating Officer Jodi Minneman "As coronavirus fears intensify and more blood drives cancel, we risk a significant decrease in donations.

"Our blood supply is safe, and it is safe to donate. The coronavirus does not pose any known risk to blood donors during the donation process or from attending blood drives. People must continue to donate. We ask that you please make appointments to donate and keep them."

Minneman said CBC must constantly replenish the blood supply to its regional hospitals. Red blood cells commonly used in emergencies and surgeries have only a 42-day shelf life. Platelet cells used for clotting wounds and treating cancer patients have only a three-day shelf life after testing.

CBC is emphasizing and enforcing its fundamental procedures to protect donors, staff, and the blood supply:

Do not be afraid to donate!

- The blood supply is safe, and it is safe to donate.
- Donors must be in good health. People with any cough or cold symptoms should not come to a blood drive. Take your temperature before coming to a blood drive.
- There are no reported cases of coronavirus transmission through blood transfusion.
- CBC is increasing hygienic and sanitary procedures.
- Blood drives are an essential activity for public health. They are controlled events with infection safeguards to protect donors, staff, and blood products.
- Make an appointment online at www.DonorTime.com or call (937) 461-3220.

Community Blood Center/Community Tissue Services® is an independent, not-for-profit organization. Community Blood Center provides blood products to 23 hospitals and health centers within a 15-county service area in the Miami (Ohio) and Whitewater (Indiana) Valleys. For more information about Community Blood Center/Community Tissue Services®, visit www.givingblood.org.

While blood drives may bring together groups of people, they are not mass gatherings. They are controlled events using appropriate infection control mechanisms to assure the safety of the donors, staff, and blood products.

As more cases of coronavirus have been reported in the region, CBC is increasing its preparedness appropriately. CBC will continue to monitor the outbreak and will provide additional updates as blood needs change.

Blood donation requirements: Donors are required to provide a photo ID that includes their full name. Past CBC donors are also asked to bring their CBC donor ID card. Donors must be at least 17 years of age (16 years old with parental consent: form available at www.givingblood.org or at CBC branch & blood drive locations), weigh a minimum of 110 pounds (you may have to weigh more, depending on your height), and be in good physical health. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) changes blood donor eligibility guidelines periodically.