

# Blood Donations are Safe & Vital to Respond to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)



**Going to a Blood Center or Blood Drive is safe.** All Blood Center equipment is decontaminated between uses, and everything that touches Blood is disposable (including blood bags, needles and test tubes).

**Blood Drives are not mass gatherings.** Our Blood Drives and Donor Centers are rarely crowded, and we expect only people feeling well to come and give Blood. The risk of exposure at a Blood Drive or Donor Center is exceedingly low.

**Donors feeling unwell should not give Blood,** just as if you had the flu or a cold. You can always reschedule an appointment to donate when you're feeling well. Donating Blood helps save lives and takes less than 60 minutes.

**There is no evidence COVID-19 (Coronavirus) can be transmitted by Blood.** Donors who do not feel well should reschedule their appointment. Anyone who has traveled to areas of major outbreaks (including mainland China, Korea, Italy, and Iran) should postpone Blood Donation for 28 days from departure. Donors who have been exposed to a person having a diagnosis of COVID-19 should postpone 28 days. Donors who have recovered from COVID-19 should postpone their donation for 28 days from the end of symptoms.

**COVID-19 (Coronavirus) has the potential to put stresses on the community Blood supply** because of a shortage of Blood Donors. Current donors may fall ill, work-from-home policies and school cancellations will decrease the available donors at Blood Drives, and/or donors may be afraid to leave their homes to give Blood. Donating now will help us have the Blood inventory to manage Blood needs as the number of available donors decreases. It will be important for all eligible donors to give at regular intervals during this time so as to be able to keep up with the demand for Blood by hospitals.

**Miller-Keystone Blood Center serves as Blood supplier** to the Geisinger Health System, Grand View Health, Hunterdon Healthcare, Lehigh Valley Health Network, St. Luke's University Health Network, and Tower Health-Reading Hospital.

**Blood Donations stay within our community.** There are patients who desperately need Blood routinely for their recovery from cancer, as well as trauma victims, premature infants, surgical patients and more. The need for Blood never ends, but the supply certainly can if it's not available. Blood is perishable and there is NO substitute – the only source is the volunteer Blood Donor. Platelets have a 5-day shelf life and are very difficult to keep available. Red Blood cells have a 42-day shelf life but are quickly used up especially if there is no one available to replenish the supply.

**To schedule your lifesaving Blood donation, call 800-B-A-DONOR or visit GIVEaPINT.org.**



Your Blood. Their Hope.  
**MILLER-KEystone**  
BLOOD CENTER

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