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**SAN DIEGO BLOOD BANK ISSUES URGENT PLEA
FOR BLOOD DONATIONS**

SAN DIEGO (March 17, 2020) – School closures and work-from-home policies have resulted in cancelled blood drives. San Diego Blood Bank collects more than half of its blood supply on bloodmobiles. An additional strain on the blood supply is expected in the coming weeks. [See all coronavirus-related travel and exposure deferrals.](#)

“The U.S. is on the verge of a serious blood shortage that will lead to blood rationing and triage. We need healthy people to come out to donate immediately,” said David Wellis, CEO, San Diego Blood Bank. “Supplies are dropping to critical levels. We are confident the San Diego community will rally around this urgent need.”

It is important to note:

- **Donor safety measures are in place:** SDBB has been in close communication with San Diego County Health & Human Services Agency, and they are advising SDBB on proper protocols amid coronavirus mandates. Surfaces are being cleaned between donations and donors are being screened upon arrival.
- **Locations are convenient.** San Diego Blood Bank has 6 donors centers and will be posting active blood drives for the following day on social media. Appointments are encouraged so we can ensure proper staffing at locations. Walk-ins are welcome.
- Please see travel and exposure [restrictions](#) related to coronavirus.
- **There is no research evidence that donating blood impacts your ability to fight infection later.** While white blood cells needed to fight infection slightly decrease for a short time after donation, abundant cells remain in the event of an infection. Furthermore, donated cells are regenerated post-donation.
- **Individuals are not at risk of contracting COVID-19 by receiving donated blood.** Respiratory viruses are not known to be transmitted by blood transfusion, and there have been no reported or suspected cases of transfusion transmission of this virus.

"It's safe to donate blood," said Admiral Brett P. Giroir, M.D., Assistant Secretary of Health, "Part of preparedness includes a robust blood supply. Healthy individuals should schedule an appointment to donate today to ensure that blood is available for patients who need it."

According to Doug Morton, COO, San Diego Blood Bank, “It’s important to note that **blood collection activities are not ‘mass gatherings,’** rather they are controlled blood drives conducted using appropriate infection control mechanisms intended to assure the safety of the products, donors and staff. San Diego Blood Bank is highly regulated and is following best practices, such as **properly cleaning surfaces between donation.**”

All blood types are needed and people who have never donated before are encouraged to donate. To make an appointment, visit www.sandiegobloodbank.org/GiveLife or call (619) 400-8251. Donors must be 17 years or older, weigh a minimum of 114 pounds and be in general good health.

About San Diego Blood Bank

SDBB is dedicated to community health by providing a reliable supply of blood to patients in need. Our vision is to further ensure the health of our community by simultaneously delivering related health and wellness education and services and extending into research. SDBB is an independent, 501(c)(3) non-profit that serves hospitals in San Diego, Orange, Imperial and Los Angeles counties with blood transfusion products and reference laboratory services. SDBB currently operates six local donor centers and 10 bloodmobiles. SDBB’s Cell Therapy Program provides lifesaving stem cell transplants to patients worldwide. For more information about SDBB, visit www.SanDiegoBloodBank.org or connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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