News Release

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**Red Cross encourages donations to keep robust blood supply as pandemic continues**

*Spike in COVID-19 cases has led to emergency plasma shortage*

*$5 Amazon.com Gift Cards offered to thank all blood donors who come to give*

**COLUMBIA**, Mo. (July 27, 2020) — Right now, the American Red Cross has an emergency shortage of convalescent plasma, a potentially lifesaving treatment for patients with COVID-19. The Red Cross has seen demand for convalescent plasma more than double over the last month as the number of coronavirus cases increases across the U.S. Convalescent plasma products are now being distributed faster than donations are coming in.

**Individuals who have fully recovered and received a verified COVID-19 diagnosis are urged to sign up to give convalescent plasma now by completing the donor eligibility form at** [**RedCrossBlood.org/plasma4covid**](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org/plasma4covid)**.**

Convalescent plasma is plasma that is collected from patients who have recovered from an infection and have antibodies that might help fight that infection – in this case, those who have fully recovered from COVID-19. With each donation, COVID-19 survivors have a unique ability to help up to three patients recover from the virus.

***Blood donors needed to keep supply strong amid pandemic***

Though this summer may feel different than summers past, one thing remains constant: The need for blood donations to help save lives. The Red Cross is urging healthy individuals to [give blood](http://www.redcrossblood.org/give) to restock the shelves for patients battling disease and facing the unexpected.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, people across the country have stepped up to help by giving blood or platelets with the Red Cross. Blood donations from healthy individuals are just as essential now to meet patient needs, and those who gave this spring may be eligible to help again.

**Donation appointments can be made for the coming days and weeks by downloading the free** [**Blood Donor App**](https://www.redcrossblood.org/blood-donor-app.html)**, visiting** [**RedCrossBlood.org**](http://www.redcrossblood.org/)**, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.**

As a thank-you for helping ensure a stable blood supply, those who come to give blood, platelets or plasma, including convalescent plasma, Aug. 1-Sept. 3 will receive a $5 Amazon.com Gift Card via email, courtesy of Amazon.\* Plus, come to give by Aug. 31 and automatically be entered for a chance to win a trip for four to Cedar Point or Knott’s Berry Farm, redeemable through the 2021 season!^

**Blood donation safety precautions**

To protect the health and safety of Red Cross staff and donors, individuals who do not feel well or who believe they may be ill with COVID-19 should postpone their donation.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and [additional precautions](https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/dlp/coronavirus--covid-19--and-blood-donation.html)– including temperature checks, social distancing and face coverings for donors and staff – have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive and are required to wear a face covering or mask while at the drive, in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance.

**Upcoming blood donation opportunities Aug. 1-15:**

Audrain

Mexico

8/3/2020: 12 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Church of God Holiness, 1215 West Boulevard

8/10/2020: 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., Elks Lodge, 1705 Christopher Rd.

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Barton

Lamar

8/10/2020: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., First Baptist Church, 1301 East 6th Street

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Bates

Rich Hill

8/4/2020: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Rich Hill Christian Church, 300 E Walnut (A Highway)

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Benton

Lincoln

8/11/2020: 2:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 207 Ohio Street

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Boone

Columbia

8/1/2020: 7:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m., Columbia Blood Donation Center, 1511 S. Providence Rd.

8/2/2020: 7:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Columbia Blood Donation Center, 1511 S. Providence Rd.

8/3/2020: 11:45 a.m. - 6:15 p.m., Columbia Blood Donation Center, 1511 S. Providence Rd.

8/4/2020: 7:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Columbia Blood Donation Center, 1511 S. Providence Rd.

8/5/2020: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Mizzou North, 115 Business Loop 70 West

8/5/2020: 11:45 a.m. - 6:15 p.m., Columbia Blood Donation Center, 1511 S. Providence Rd.

8/6/2020: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Woodcrest, 2201 W. Nifong

8/6/2020: 11:45 a.m. - 5:15 p.m., Columbia Blood Donation Center, 1511 S. Providence Rd.

8/7/2020: 7:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Columbia Blood Donation Center, 1511 S. Providence Rd.

8/7/2020: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Columbia Mall, 2300 Bernadette Dr

8/8/2020: 7:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Columbia Blood Donation Center, 1511 S. Providence Rd.

8/9/2020: 7:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Columbia Blood Donation Center, 1511 S. Providence Rd.

8/10/2020: 11:45 a.m. - 6:15 p.m., Columbia Blood Donation Center, 1511 S. Providence Rd.

8/11/2020: 8:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Columbia Blood Donation Center, 1511 S. Providence Rd.

8/11/2020: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., Forum Christian Church, 3900 Forum Blvd

8/12/2020: 11:45 a.m. - 6:15 p.m., Columbia Blood Donation Center, 1511 S. Providence Rd.

8/13/2020: 11:45 a.m. - 5:15 p.m., Columbia Blood Donation Center, 1511 S. Providence Rd.

8/14/2020: 7:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Columbia Blood Donation Center, 1511 S. Providence Rd.

8/14/2020: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Boone Hospital Center, 1600 E Broadway

8/15/2020: 7:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Columbia Blood Donation Center, 1511 S. Providence Rd.

Hallsville

8/12/2020: 2:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Hallsville High School, 421 E Hwy 124

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Callaway

Fulton

8/4/2020: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Callaway Electric Cooperative, 1313 Cooperative Drive

8/10/2020: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Fulton Area Blood Drives, 6841 State Road Z

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Camden

Osage Beach

8/5/2020: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Purcell Tire and Service Center, 990 Virginia Avenue

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Cedar

Stockton

8/6/2020: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Agape Boarding School, 12998 East 1400 Road

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Clay

Liberty

8/12/2020: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Hy Vee - Liberty, 109 N. Blue Jay Dr.

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Cole

Jefferson City

8/1/2020: 7:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m., Jefferson City Blood Donation Center, 3230 Emerald Lane

8/2/2020: 7:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Jefferson City Blood Donation Center, 3230 Emerald Lane

8/3/2020: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Capital West Christian Church, 1315 Fairgrounds Road

8/3/2020: 12:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m., Jefferson City Blood Donation Center, 3230 Emerald Lane

8/4/2020: 8:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Jefferson City Blood Donation Center, 3230 Emerald Lane

8/5/2020: 11:45 a.m. - 6:15 p.m., Jefferson City Blood Donation Center, 3230 Emerald Lane

8/6/2020: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Division of Professional Registration, 3605 Missouri Blvd.

8/6/2020: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Jefferson City Blood Donation Center, 3230 Emerald Lane

8/7/2020: 7:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Jefferson City Blood Donation Center, 3230 Emerald Lane

8/8/2020: 8:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Jefferson City Blood Donation Center, 3230 Emerald Lane

8/9/2020: 7:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Jefferson City Blood Donation Center, 3230 Emerald Lane

8/10/2020: 12:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m., Jefferson City Blood Donation Center, 3230 Emerald Lane

8/11/2020: 8:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Jefferson City Blood Donation Center, 3230 Emerald Lane

8/11/2020: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., Calvary Lutheran High School, 2525 Route B

8/12/2020: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Highway Patrol Troop HQ, 1510 E Elm

8/12/2020: 11:45 a.m. - 6:15 p.m., Jefferson City Blood Donation Center, 3230 Emerald Lane

8/13/2020: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Jefferson City Blood Donation Center, 3230 Emerald Lane

8/14/2020: 7:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Jefferson City Blood Donation Center, 3230 Emerald Lane

8/14/2020: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Missouri Secretary of State, 600 W. Main Street

8/15/2020: 8:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Jefferson City Blood Donation Center, 3230 Emerald Lane

Russellville

8/3/2020: 2:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., St Michaels Catholic Church, 5214 North Hatler Street

Wardsville

8/2/2020: 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., St Stanislaus Church, 6410 Route W

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Dallas

Buffalo

8/5/2020: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Buffalo United Methodist Church, 214 North Pine Street

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Gasconade

Hermann

8/5/2020: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., St George School, 133 W. 4th St.

Owensville

8/10/2020: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., LSC Communications, 1005 Commercial Dr.

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Jackson

Blue Springs

8/7/2020: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Hughes Defense, 1008 W Main St

Independence

8/7/2020: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Bass Pro Shop Independence, 18001 Bass Pro Drive

8/10/2020: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Pizza Ranch - Independence, 4660 Bass Pro Drive

8/13/2020: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Bass Pro Shop Independence, 18001 Bass Pro Drive

Kansas City

8/5/2020: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Plexpod, 300 East 39th Street

8/7/2020: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Kansas City Public Library: Waldo Branch, 201 E 75th Street

8/10/2020: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., The Yellow Rock Barn, 8307 Westridge Rd

8/11/2020: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., The Yellow Rock Barn, 8307 Westridge Rd

Lees Summit

8/3/2020: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Summit Ridge Medical Plaza, 600 MW Murray Rd

8/11/2020: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Bright Health, 777 NW Blue Pkwy

8/14/2020: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Raintree Pediatrics, 995 SW 34th St.

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Johnson

Warrensburg

8/4/2020: 3 p.m. - 7 p.m., Warrensburg Community Center, 445 E. Gay Street

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Laclede

Lebanon

8/13/2020: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., The Mills Center, 650 Mills Drive

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Morgan

Stover

8/13/2020: 2:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Stover Community Center, 600 Legion Drive

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Pulaski

Saint Robert

8/7/2020: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Lowes St. Robert, 120 Carson Blvd

8/13/2020: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., KFLW 98.9 The Fort, 555 Marshall Dr.

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Randolph

Cairo

8/6/2020: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Cairo Christian Church, 104 Baker St.

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**About blood donation**

All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to [donate blood](https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive). High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://www.redcrossblood.org/rapidpass) or use the Blood Donor App.

**About the American Red Cross**

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation’s blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit [redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org/) or [cruzrojaamericana.org](http://www.cruzrojaamericana.org/), or visit us on Twitter at [@RedCross](http://www.twitter.com/redcross).

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\* Restrictions apply. Additional information and details are available at [RedCrossBlood.org/Together](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org/Together).

^ Terms and conditions apply. Additional information and details are available at [RedCrossBlood.org/CedarFair](http://www.redcrossblood.org/cedarfair).