

Blood Donation Opportunities

Oct. 22-Nov. 15, 2020



**American
Red Cross**

Flu vaccine, blood donation both help save lives

Healthy donors are needed to maintain blood supply

MEDFORD, Mass., October 21, 2020 — The American Red Cross is urging healthy donors of all blood types to [give blood](#) to ensure a strong blood supply for patients as the U.S. braces for flu season while in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Flu shot doesn't affect blood donation eligibility

Medical experts are urging people to get the flu shot to avoid a flu epidemic on top of the current COVID-19 pandemic. Because blood can only be given by those who are feeling well, a severe flu season could create additional challenges to maintaining a sufficient blood supply for hospital patients in need.

Get the flu vaccine this year to help protect the nation from the virus but also to ensure that patients continue to have access to lifesaving blood products. There is no waiting period to give blood or platelets after receiving a flu shot as long as the donor is symptom-free and fever-free. There is no risk of transmitting the influenza virus after receiving a flu vaccination.

For those that have the flu, it is important to wait until they no longer exhibit flu symptoms, have recovered completely and feel well before attempting to donate. Donors must feel healthy and well on the day of donation.

[Stay healthy this flu season](#) and make an appointment to donate blood by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](#), calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

In thanks for making time to donate, the Red Cross will send those who come to give Oct. 15-Nov. 11 a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card via email, courtesy of Suburban Propane. Plus, those who come to give in October are automatically entered for a chance to win a \$1,000 Amazon.com Gift Card. Five lucky people will win. (Restrictions apply. Additional information and details are available at [RedCrossBlood.org/Unite.](#))

Important COVID-19 information for donors

The Red Cross is testing blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies. The test may indicate if the donor's immune system has produced antibodies to this coronavirus, regardless of whether an individual developed COVID-19 symptoms. Red Cross antibody tests will be helpful to identify individuals who have COVID-19 antibodies and may now help current coronavirus patients in need of convalescent plasma transfusions. Convalescent plasma is a type of blood donation collected from COVID-19 survivors that have antibodies that may help patients who are actively fighting the virus.

COVID-19 antibody test results will be available within one to two weeks in the Red Cross Blood Donor App or donor portal at [RedCrossBlood.org](#). A positive antibody test result does not confirm infection or immunity. The Red Cross is not testing donors to diagnose illness, referred to as a diagnostic test. To protect the health and safety of Red Cross staff and donors, it is important that individuals who do not feel well or believe they may be ill with COVID-19 postpone donation.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and [additional precautions](#) – 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 Oct. 21-Nov. 15:

Barstable Country

Bourne

11/4/2020: 2:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Cawnacome Sunshine AF & AM, 77 Valley Bars Road

Brewster

11/2/2020: 12 p.m. - 4 p.m., The Captains Golf Course, 1000 Freemans Way

Falmouth

10/22/2020: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., First Congregation Church- Falmouth, 68 Main St

11/4/2020: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., First Congregation Church- Falmouth, 68 Main St

Harwich

11/20/2020: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Harwich Community Center, 100 Oak Street

Orleans

11/4/2020: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Church of the Holy Spirit, 204 Monument Rd

Osterville

10/29/2020: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Osterville Village Library, 43 Wianno Ave #2028

10/30/2020: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Osterville Village Library, 43 Wianno Ave #2028

11/6/2020: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Osterville Village Library, 43 Wianno Ave #2028

11/9/2020: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Osterville Village Library, 43 Wianno Ave #2028

11/10/2020: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Osterville Village Library, 43 Wianno Ave #2028

West Yarmouth

10/21/2020: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Cape Cod/Islands Assoc. Realtors, 22 Mid Tech Drive

11/13/2020: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Cape Cod/Islands Assoc. Realtors, 22 Mid Tech Drive

About blood donation

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. 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](#). 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](https://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](https://www.redcross.org) or [cruzrojaamericana.org](https://www.cruzrojaamericana.org), or visit us on Twitter at [@RedCross](https://twitter.com/RedCross).

###