

## **Red Cross blood donors have new opportunity to help patients fighting COVID-19**

*Donors needed this fall to maintain blood supply amid ongoing pandemic*

**UTICA, N.Y.** (Sept. 24, 2020) — Plasma from whole blood donations made through the American Red Cross that test positive for COVID-19 antibodies may now help current coronavirus patients in need of convalescent plasma transfusions. Donors are encouraged to make an appointment to [give blood](#) now to help ensure coronavirus patients and others who depend on transfusions have needed blood products this fall.

In April, the Red Cross began collecting COVID-19 convalescent plasma from previously diagnosed individuals, who could only give at one of approximately 170 Red Cross blood donation centers across the country. Convalescent plasma contains COVID-19 antibodies that may help the most critical patients actively fighting this virus. Now, whole blood donations made at any Red Cross blood drive or blood donation center could be helpful in this effort.

“Donations that come back positive for COVID-19 antibodies now undergo secondary testing to confirm antibody results, and that enables the Red Cross to then potentially use the plasma from those donations for COVID-19 patients,” said Dr. Erin Goodhue, executive medical director of direct patient care with the Red Cross Biomedical Services. “With approximately 2% of the U.S. population testing positive for COVID-19 antibodies, every donation is important to ensure patients with coronavirus have access to every treatment option available to them.”

**The Red Cross encourages eligible individuals to schedule an appointment, download the free 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.**

In thanks, the Red Cross is offering a \$1,000 Amazon.com Gift Card to five lucky winners who come to give in October. Terms and conditions apply; visit [rcblood.org/unite](#). Additionally, those who come to give by the end of September will receive a free haircut coupon by email to participating Sport Clips Haircuts locations. More information is available at [RedCrossBlood.org/Sport-Clips](#).

### **About antibody testing**

Antibody testing may indicate if the donor’s immune system has produced antibodies to this coronavirus, regardless of whether an individual experienced COVID-19 symptoms. Donations are tested using samples pulled at the time of donation and sent to a testing laboratory where they will also undergo routine infectious disease testing.

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.

### **Important COVID-19 information for donors**

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, Sept. 23-Oct. 15:**

#### **Delaware**

##### Delhi

10/6/2020: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Delhi Alliance Church, 16178 NY 28

##### Downsville

10/9/2020: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Downsville Central School, Maple Ave

##### Franklin

10/15/2020: 1:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Franklin Methodist Church, 101 Main St

##### Margaretville

10/14/2020: 12 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Margaretville Fire Department, 77 Church Street

##### Sidney

9/25/2020: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., American Legion Post 183, 22 Union Street

##### Sidney Center

9/29/2020: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES, 270 Boces Drive Route 206

##### South Kortright

10/1/2020: 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., South Kortright Central School, 58200 State Highway 10

##### Stamford

10/12/2020: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Stamford Baptist Church, 40 Lake Street

##### Walton

10/15/2020: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Walton Fire Department, 59 West Street

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#### **Herkimer**

##### Herkimer

10/5/2020: 1:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 127 Prospect Street

##### Ilion

9/24/2020: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Ilion Marine Corps, 178 Second St.

10/8/2020: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., First Presbyterian Church of Ilion, 90 Morgan Street

##### Little Falls

10/5/2020: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Little Falls Elks Lodge, 60 Ann Street

##### Mohawk

10/13/2020: 12:30 p.m. - 5 p.m., American Legion Post 25 Mohawk, 43 West Main Street

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## **Oneida**

### Barneveld

9/25/2020: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Town of Trenton Municipal Center, 8520 Old Poland Rd

### Camden

9/30/2020: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., St John's the Evangelist Church, 35 3rd St

### New York Mills

10/10/2020: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., New York Mills Fire Department, 379 Main St

### Oriskany

10/7/2020: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., American Legion Post 1448, Route 69

### Rome

9/24/2020: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Mohawk Valley Community College, 1101 Floyd Ave

9/25/2020: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., St John's Lutheran Church, 502 West Chestnut Street

10/3/2020: 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Rome VFW Post 2246, 315 N Washington St

### Utica

9/24/2020: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sisters of Third Franciscan Order, 2209 Genesee St

9/24/2020: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Redeemer Church, 931 Herkimer Rd

9/28/2020: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Mohawk Valley Community College, 1101 Sherman Dr

10/6/2020: 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Faxton St Luke's Health Care, 1656 Champlin Avenue, Box 479

### Whitesboro

10/9/2020: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Dunham Public Library, 76 Main St

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## **Otsego**

### Cooperstown

10/14/2020: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., St Mary's Roman Catholic Church, 31 Elm Street

### Oneonta

9/29/2020: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Elm Park Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut St.

9/30/2020: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., American Legion Post 259, 279 Chestnut Street

10/7/2020: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Foothills Performing Arts & Civic Center, 24 Market Street

### Richfield Springs

9/28/2020: 2:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., America Legion Post 616, 13 Lake Street

### Wells Bridge

9/29/2020: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Wells Bridge Fire Department, 104 County Highway 4

### Worcester

10/5/2020: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Worcester Municipal Building, 19 Katie Lane

## **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](#). 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://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://redcross.org) or [cruzrojaamericana.org](https://cruzrojaamericana.org), or visit us on Twitter at [@RedCross](https://twitter.com/RedCross).

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