



The American Red Cross and the St. Louis Blues Encourage All to Roll Up a Sleeve and Help Save Lives

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ST. LOUIS (Jan. 7, 2021) — For the 14th consecutive year the American Red Cross, the St. Louis Blues, Fox Sports Midwest and Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield encourage all donors to roll up a sleeve to help patients in need by donating blood at the St. Louis Blues Blood Drive, Wednesday, Jan. 27.

Blues fans will have the opportunity to donate blood at one of nine convenient locations in Missouri and Illinois from noon to 7 p.m. Everyone who presents to donate will receive a specially designed retro Blues T-shirt, while supplies last.

January is also National Blood Donor Month. The Blues and the Red Cross of Greater St. Louis urge individuals – especially those who have recovered from COVID-19 – to give blood and to help overcome the national convalescent plasma shortage. The winter months continue to be one of the most challenging times of year for the Red Cross due

to inclement weather and now the impact of COVID-19. Both can force the cancellation of blood drives. Additionally, some donors become temporarily ineligible because of seasonal illnesses.

Illinois

- American Legion Post 365, 1022 Vandalia, Collinsville, IL. 62234

“We are extremely grateful for the generosity of the Blues, their staff and Blues fans,” said Lori Stone, District Manager, American Red Cross of St. Louis. “COVID-19 has presented us with additional challenges. We are grateful to the Blues and Fox Sports Midwest for their partnership in helping us stabilize the blood supply so we can provide uninterrupted donations to patients in need.”

Every two seconds in the United States blood is needed to respond to patient emergencies, including accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or sickle cell disease. The Red Cross must collect nearly 13,000 blood and more than 2,600 platelet donations every day for the patients at about 2,500 hospitals nationwide, including 66 hospitals in Missouri and Southeastern/Southwestern Illinois.

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 they developed symptoms. Red Cross antibody tests will be helpful to identify individuals who have COVID-19 antibodies and may qualify to be convalescent plasma donors. 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. Donors can expect to receive the results of their antibody test within 7 to 10 days through the Red Cross Blood Donor App or the donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org.

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.

How to donate blood

Simply download the Red Cross Blood Donor App or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org), and enter sponsor code: **BLUES**, or 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).