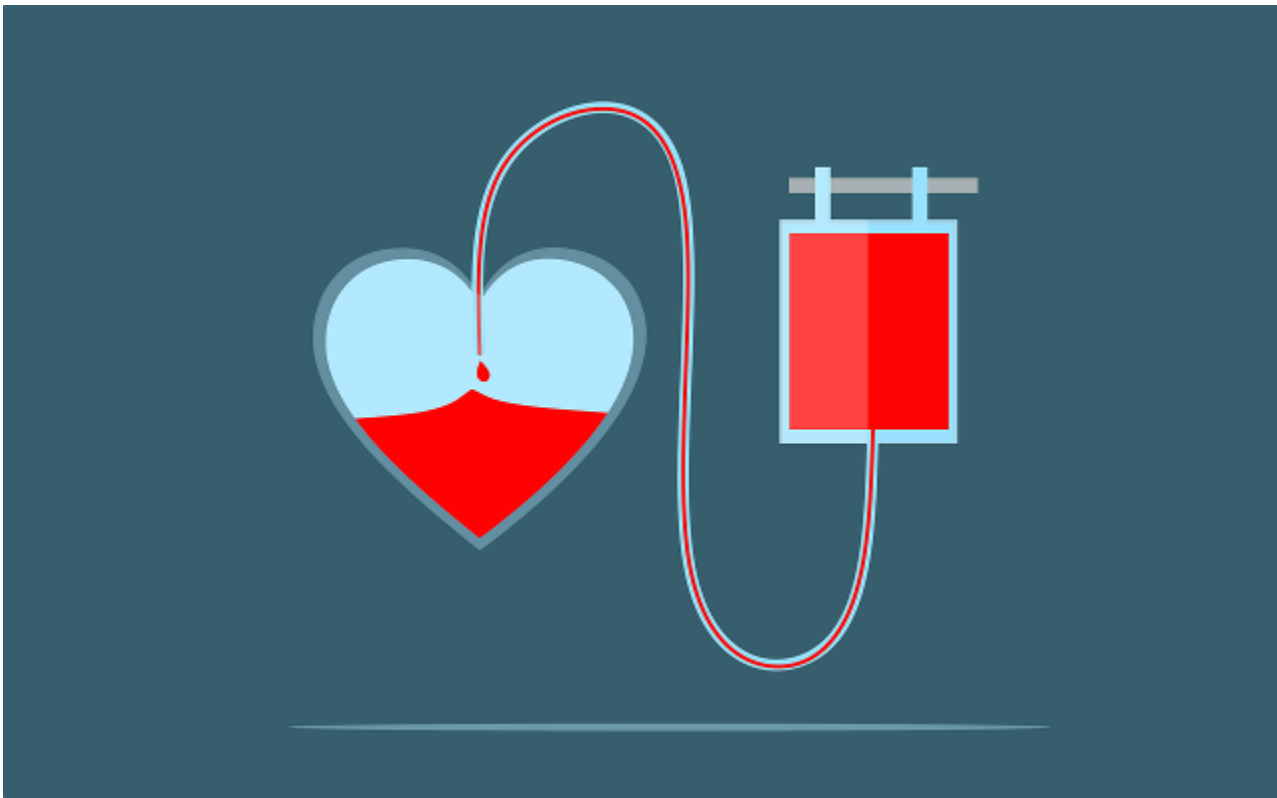


More People Now Eligible To Give Blood Or Platelets With The Red Cross

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ST. LOUIS - The American Red Cross now invites those who spent time in the U.K., Ireland or France and have never tried to give blood due to concerns over variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD) – related to mad cow disease – to give blood and help save lives.

Recently, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration updated its blood donor eligibility guidance on vCJD, eliminating the deferral for those who spent time in the U.K., Ireland and France between 1980 and 2001. In alignment with FDA changes, the Red Cross began accepting donations Oct. 3 from individuals who have not tried giving blood

before due to the prior donation criteria. In combination with prior eligibility updates in 2020 for those who spent time in other European countries, this new change effectively eliminates the deferral related to vCJD for all donors.

“For many years, the Red Cross has heard from people who have spent time in these countries – often members of the military and their families – hoping for the opportunity to donate blood or platelets,” said Beth Elders, Executive Director, Red Cross of Greater St. Louis and Eastern Missouri. “We now welcome all donors who may have spent time in Europe and avoided blood donation as a result to join us in our lifesaving mission to help patients in need.”

More blood donors – especially type O donors – are urged to donate now to prevent disruptions to essential medical care this fall. Book a time to give by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). As a thank-you, all who come to give Oct. 16-31, 2022, will receive a \$10 e-Gift Card by email to a merchant of choice.

Changes in progress for those with a Red Cross donor record

Those who have tried to give with the Red Cross and have been previously deferred from donating will be contacted by the Red Cross once system records are updated. This deferral is more complex to remove than others as there are decades of donors in the Red Cross system who have been deferred under the previous FDA requirements. Individuals who have questions about their donor record can contact the Red Cross Donor and Client Support Center at 1-866-236-3276.

Blood Drive Spotlight: 16th Annual J98 Alpha Media Blood Drive Oct. 17

Don't miss the annual [KTJJ Radio "The Boot" 98.5 FM](https://www.ktjjradio.com) blood drive Monday, Oct. 17, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Farmington VFW Hall & [Jefferson County Family YMCA](https://www.jeffersoncountymca.org). All who attempt to donate will receive a \$5 e-gift card and a special Red Cross/KTJJ /KREI T-shirt, while supplies last. If you live in the Farmington and Festus areas we hope you will roll up a sleeve and help patients in need. Walk-ins are welcome, or you can make your appointment today by clicking this link: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=J98>