



HELP  **GIVE** 

**MOBILE BLOOD DRIVES SAFE & CRITICAL
AS CENTRAL TEXANS RESPOND TO CORONAVIRUS.**

As concern grows in Central Texas around the coronavirus, We Are Blood wants to assure mobile blood drive hosts and their communities about the safety and importance of donating blood. Hosting your blood drive and motivating your communities to donate blood are vital ways to keep our friends and loved ones safe in the coming weeks.

We need to collect over 200 donations daily to meet local patient need for blood transfusions. Every day surgical patients, accident victims, cancer patients, new mothers and newborns need blood transfusions to live. Mobile blood drives provide half of blood donations we collect.

Here are some answers for your communities if they are considering attending your mobile blood drive or donating blood:

Is it safe to donate blood?

- The coronavirus does not pose any risk to blood donors, either during the donation process or from attending mobile blood drives.
- We are encouraging our Central Texas community members to donate blood to prepare for any downturn in donations and are encouraging mobile blood drive coordinators to host their planned blood drive and continue to book appointments.

What measures are in place to ensure the safety of the blood supply?

- According to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), there have been no reported or suspected cases of transfusion-transmitted COVID-19.
- Routine blood donor screening measures that are already in place – which may include travel deferrals – should prevent individuals with clinical respiratory infections from donating blood.

Is it critical to maintain a safe and adequate blood supply to prepare?

- In order to maintain an adequate blood supply for patients in need, we encourage healthy, eligible individuals to donate blood.
- It is imperative that healthy donors continue to donate to maintain an adequate blood supply.
- In times of disaster or public health crises, it is the blood on the shelf that saves lives.
- There are patient needs 24/7 so the shelves must be replenished constantly.