



From the Office of Pampee Young, Chief Medical Officer

Dear Valued Red Cross Partner,

Thank you for your help in saving patient lives. As the chief physician for the American Red Cross, I am thankful that you have helped so many patients in need. 84 percent of the blood we collect comes from organizations like yours.

The Red Cross is continually monitoring the outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). **As our valued partner, we want you to know that normal operations to collect donated blood can and should continue, as patients need us now more than ever.**

NO TRANSMISSION BY BLOOD

There have been no reported cases of **any** respiratory virus being transmitted by blood, including this coronavirus (COVID-19). Donating blood is a safe process and people should not hesitate to give or receive blood.

ALWAYS CAUTIOUS

Red Cross employees are trained in universal precautions to help prevent the spread of any type of infection. At each blood drive, our staff follow thorough safety protocols, including routinely wiping down areas and using sterile collection sets for every donation. Out of an abundance of caution, we've implemented additional donor screening and site-specific protections, and will always put the safety of our volunteer partners and staff first.

BLOOD NEEDS NEVER STOP

Patients who need blood to survive chronic illness, battle cancer, or survive unexpected trauma are likely the most vulnerable to any virus, so the best thing we can do to protect their care is to continue providing a healthy, readily available blood supply.

Every day, blood transfusions help revive patients who might not otherwise survive. I have seen the relief in a loved one's eyes when told that a blood transfusion saved their child, parent or grandparent. Hosting a blood drive can make that relief happen and I encourage you to do so.

We will continue to update you on our response at [RedCross.org](https://www.RedCross.org) and are grateful for your unwavering commitment to protect the most vulnerable among us, by ensuring their access to lifesaving blood.

With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pampee P. Young". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pampee P. Young, M.D., Ph.D.
Chief Medical Officer
American Red Cross