



Information about coronavirus (COVID-19) and blood donation

At Blood Bank of Hawaii, the safety of our donors and the safety of Hawaii's blood supply are our top priorities. Because of this, we want to provide the most up-to-date information about coronavirus (COVID-19) and its impact on our life saving mission. We want to reassure you that at BBH we are doing everything we can to face this challenge. Here are some answers to questions that you may have regarding blood donations:

Is it safe for me to donate blood?

- Yes, it's safe! You are NOT at any increased risk of contracting COVID-19 from donating blood, going to a blood center or attending a blood drive.
- Our pre-donation screening process requires health/travel questionnaires, and mini-physical exams, including a temperature check for every donor.
- We defer any donors who have a fever or are not feeling healthy and well.

What procedures are already in place to ensure donor safety?

- All blood bags and needles are sterile, single-use only.
- Disinfecting wipes are placed in all donation areas.
- Donor beds are cleaned between each donation.
- All donor areas, including the reception/waiting area, canteen, history booths and donation chairs are cleaned regularly.
- Before blood collection, the donor's arm is thoroughly disinfected.
- Staff wear gloves while interacting with donors during the entire donation process.

What additional measures is BBH taking to ensure donor safety?

- BBH has been in consultation with Hawaii DOH, as well as the CDC and FDA. We understand and follow the recommendations for social distancing and other precautionary measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Blood drives are not considered a large gathering because we only schedule small number of donors at a time throughout the day.
- BBH procedures are already in line with best practices among blood banks. However, where applicable, we are modifying our workflow and operational setup to comply with DOH and CDC recommendations in an abundance of precaution.
- BBH is continuing to strictly enforce the policy that team members must NOT report to work if they are feeling unwell.

How can I help prevent the spread of infection, including the coronavirus?

- If you are not feeling well, have a cough or fever, do not come in to donate.
- If you are feeling well and healthy, please schedule an appointment.
- If you have an appointment and are healthy, please keep your appointment. Patients are depending on you!
- At home, take care of yourself and your loved ones by practicing good hygiene such as washing your hands for 20 seconds.

Our Young Street Donor Center is open every day – Monday through Thursday 6:30 am to 6:30 pm and Friday through Sunday 6:30 am to 4:30 pm. For donors' convenience, we also have regularly scheduled community drives throughout Oahu and on neighbor islands.

To make an appointment, visit our website: www.bloodbanktough.org or call (808) 848-4770.