2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

The American Red Cross is closely monitoring the evolving situation regarding the outbreak of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus. While the risk of contracting any coronavirus through a blood transfusion is extremely low, out of the abundance of caution, we are taking actions to help ensure the safety of the blood supply, our donors, recipients, volunteers and staff.

The Red Cross asks that all individuals who have traveled to China and its special administrative regions, Hong Kong and Macau; who have been diagnosed with 2019 Coronavirus or cared for, lived with or had direct contact with body fluids of a person with 2019 Coronavirus or suspected 2019 Coronavirus to postpone their blood or platelet donation until 28 days following return to U.S. Signage and donor educational materials on the 2019 Coronavirus will be present at all Red Cross blood drives and donation centers across the country.

BLOOD SAFETY FOCUS

- The Red Cross uses safety measures to protect the blood supply from all respiratory viruses including this coronavirus strain.
  - In addition to the travel deferral, the health history screening also helps to protect the blood supply.
  - Blood is only collected from individuals who are healthy and feeling well at the time of donation.
  - Call back number, to connect with trained donor counselors, is provided if donor develops any symptoms of illness within the days following donation. Donations from such donors are immediately quarantined and not used for transfusion.
  - The Red Cross continuously monitors virus activity and takes proactive actions to safeguard the blood supply when necessary.

- The spread of this 2019 coronavirus continues to evolve and donation information may change as a result in the weeks and months ahead, so please be sure to consult with your Red Cross representative or staff at your blood drive with any questions.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Recruit a few additional donors to your blood drive to help offset any individuals that may postpone their donation due to travel to affected areas.
- Educate your donors who have traveled to China to schedule an appointment for more than 28 days after their return to the U.S.
- Volunteers who are helping donors at check-in and registration at your blood drive may be given information on-site regarding this coronavirus. They may be asked to share the information with donors and help those who may need to postpone their donation.
- For detailed donor eligibility questions, please have your donors call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org. For more information on the 2019 coronavirus, visit the CDC website at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/.

Thank you for your support! Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your Red Cross representative.