



March 3, 2020

## Carter BloodCare remains vigilant during evolving COVID-19 outbreak

*Blood donations are safe and highly encouraged*

Carter BloodCare understands community concerns surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak. As your community blood center, be reassured that we are monitoring the disease through daily communications with AABB, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The blood banking community also remains in close contact with each other about best practices. Carter BloodCare's mission is at the heart of what we do – saving lives by making transfusion possible.

Coronaviruses, which include things like SARS, MERS and the common cold, have never been spread by blood transfusion. There are no reported cases of transfusion-transmitted COVID-19 and no identified additional risks to the blood supply at this time.

Blood donation remains safe. The first line of protection for the blood supply is the routine health screening of donors. This includes our asking if you are healthy and feeling well on the day of donation. If you have any symptoms of disease, including cold- or flu-like symptoms, you should not present to give blood. Donors are routinely screened for temperature, pulse rate, blood pressure and hemoglobin.

Carter BloodCare encourages all eligible blood donors to make and keep appointments; especially in light of the existing cold and flu season and any possible increase in deferrals that could come from COVID-19 travel restrictions.

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