

For Immediate Release



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Bloodworks Northwest Seeks More Convalescent Plasma Donors

Joins State Public Health Officials in Response to Rising COVID-19 Numbers

Seattle, WA – In response to rapidly growing demand for COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma (CCP) from hospitals across the state of Washington and the nation, Bloodworks Northwest is expanding its [Convalescent Plasma Donor Program](#) to Everett, Lynnwood (in Snohomish County) and Vancouver, Washington (in metropolitan Portland) in hopes of finding more CCP donors. Bloodworks Northwest is working in cooperation with the Washington State Department of Health that has just put out an urgent statewide call for more CCP donors who've fully recovered from COVID-19.

Bloodworks was among the first in the nation to start collecting CCP in April after the COVID-19 pandemic first hit the United States here in the Seattle area and has been able to supply approaching 1,000 units of CCP to hospitals across the nation. CCP has shown promise as a means to treat those infected by COVID-19. Each unit of CCP is able to treat up to four people infected by the virus.

“We’re in uncharted territory here. Our plan was to look for more donors in the fall when it was originally thought COVID-19 rates might rise, but that increase is already here,” said Dr. Rebecca Haley, Medical Director at Bloodworks Northwest. “In addition to meeting the growing demand for CCP here in the Pacific Northwest, we’ve also sent units to hospitals in Texas and Arizona where recent COVID-19 numbers have seen the nation’s most dramatic increase.”

At present, Bloodworks has dedicated 120 appointments per week at the Bloodworks Central Donor Center on Seattle’s First Hill. The expansion will include a total of 30 per week from Lynnwood, Everett and Vancouver, Washington. Bloodworks will increase that number to accommodate donor response. Thus far, CCP donors have ranged in age from 19 to 79. Most CCP donors are women. To find out more: <https://www.bloodworksnw.org/covid19study>

What You Need to Know:

Convalescent plasma therapy administers plasma directly to the patient in hopes that the antibodies will help their body fight off infection. You may have seen this form of convalescent plasma in the news or on Bloodworks' social media. COVID-19 survivor Tom Hanks famously [donated his celebrity plasma](#). Bloodworks made national news when it collected Washington's first convalescent plasma unit on April 10. Seattle resident [Elizabeth Schneider](#) was our first donor and we featured her on a [recent episode](#) of our podcast, [Bloodworks 101](#).

Convalescent plasma treatment for COVID-19 has not been yet approved by the [FDA](#), so it is considered an investigational new drug (IND) that first must pass a series of clinical trials to be formally added to the officially-sanctioned treatment protocol. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has put out a [national call](#) for more convalescent plasma donors.

With the continued rise of COVID-19 cases, patients have an ongoing need for convalescent plasma transfusion. Bloodworks has information on their [website](#) to find out if you qualify. **If you haven't had COVID-19 and are still wanting to help, you can donate blood which is in critical need this summer.**

How to participate

We continue to [recruit people with a confirmed positive COVID-19 test](#) who have been recovered from COVID-19 for at least 28 days.

Please note: we are not testing for COVID-19, so even if you are relatively sure you had it but don't have a confirmed positive result, you are not eligible to participate at this point.

Research participants must meet the criteria to donate blood as well as the following additional requirements:

1. Age of at least 18 years at time of providing informed consent
2. Legally qualified to receive study reimbursement
3. Reliably capable of receiving US mail, electronic mail and telephone calls
4. Anticipated to be available for scheduled donation(s)
5. Donors must have been diagnosed with COVID-19
6. Either:
 1. 28 days since positive screening
 2. 28 days since last symptoms
 3. OR a negative test

A donor can donate plasma every seven days, up to 20 times; donors with a high titer will be invited to participate as many times as possible. A typical plasma donation takes about 45 minutes. Qualifying participants are invited to donate plasma multiple times. Donations are confidential, and your identity is hidden from researchers by law.

If you are a regular blood donor, you will be deferred from donating to the community supply for the duration of your participation but know that your donations are as lifesaving as ever.

If you think you qualify, please fill out our [pre-screening questionnaire](#).

If you are healthy and have never been diagnosed with COVID-19, donating blood is always a way you can support your community, and even amid the pandemic, it remains a safe activity.

And if you can't donate blood, consider [making financial gift](#).

About Bloodworks Northwest

Bloodworks (formerly Puget Sound Blood Center) is backed by 75 years of Northwest history and 250,000 donors. It is local, nonprofit, independent, volunteer-supported and community-based. A recognized leader in transfusion medicine, Bloodworks serves patients in more than 100 hospitals in Washington, Oregon and Alaska — partnering closely with local hospitals to deliver the highest level of patient care. Comprehensive services include blood components, complex cross-matching, specialized lab services for organ transplants, care for patients with blood disorders, and collection of cord blood stem cells for cancer treatment. Bloodworks Research Institute performs leading-edge research in blood biology, transfusion medicine, blood storage and treatment of blood disorders. Patients with traumatic injuries, undergoing surgeries or organ transplantation, or receiving treatment for cancer and blood disorders all depend on our services, expertise, laboratories and research. Blood donation appointments can be scheduled at 800-398-7888 or schedule.bloodworksnw.org. For more information, visit bloodworksnw.org.

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