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**SAN DIEGO BLOOD BANK WELCOMES NEWLY ELIGIBLE
INDIVIDUALS TO DONATE BLOOD**

Recent FDA guidance allows more gay and bisexual men to donate

SAN DIEGO (October 20, 2023) – Earlier this year the Food and Drug Administration issued a [final guidance](#) that established a blood donor screening process based on individual donor assessments instead of sexual orientation. Now, every prospective donor, regardless of gender or sexual orientation, will be evaluated using the same individual donor assessment questions relevant to HIV.

San Diego Blood Bank began welcoming its newly eligible donors today.

This change will promote the safety of America’s blood supply while making blood donation available to more people, including many in the LGBTQ+ community. The change also aligns the United States with other countries who have implemented similar changes including Canada and the United Kingdom.

"San Diego Blood Bank has always prioritized the safety of our blood supply, and this change will surely contribute to an even more robust inventory for patients locally and throughout the country" said San Diego Blood Bank CEO Doug Morton. "Our systems are now updated, and we are excited to welcome new donors into our family."

This new policy is a major step forward in the ongoing work of increasing the number of available blood donors while maintaining the safety of the blood supply. By basing a person’s ability to donate on their individual donor assessment rather than sexual orientation, more gay and bisexual men will now be able to safely donate blood.

To be eligible to donate blood you must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 114 pounds, and be in general good health. Eligible blood donors are encouraged to schedule an appointment at SanDiegoBloodBank.org or by calling 619-400-8251. Walk-ins are welcome.

About San Diego Blood Bank

San Diego Blood Bank is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization also operating as Southern California Blood Bank, serving hospitals throughout Southern California. San Diego Blood Bank

is dedicated to community health by providing a reliable supply of blood to patients in need. Our vision is to further ensure the health of our community by simultaneously delivering related health and wellness education and services and collaborate with various partners in medical research. San Diego Blood Bank currently operates nine fixed site donation locations and 10 bloodmobiles. For more information about SDBB, visit SanDiegoBloodBank.org or connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [Linkedin](#).

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