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SAN DIEGO BLOOD BANK ASKS COMMUNITY TO DONATE BLOOD IN ANTICIPATION OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS RELATED TO COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019)

SAN DIEGO (March 4, 2020) – San Diego Blood Bank continues its efforts to monitor and respond to the coronavirus outbreak (COVID-19) with the safety of the U.S. blood supply and blood donors our top priority. **There is no known risk to the safety of the nation’s blood supply.**

Individuals are not at risk of contracting COVID-19 from donating blood. COVID-19 also continues to pose no known risk to patients receiving blood transfusions, with no reported cases of transfusion transmission of this virus. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have not changed their recommendation that no additional action by blood centers is warranted at this time.

Increased donations are needed now as San Diego Blood Bank prepares for possible decreased blood donation collections as a result of COVID-19 travel restrictions. If the outbreak continues to spread, additional challenges could arise, which could potentially reduce the number of eligible donors further.

San Diego Blood Bank is currently deferring people who have travelled from China, Italy, Iran and South Korea for 28 days from date of departure. If donors have been exposed to or treated for Coronavirus, they are also deferred for 28 days. People experiencing Coronavirus symptoms, including fever, cough and shortness of breath, should not attempt to donate.

“We are working with local hospitals to fill hospital inventory in anticipation of a potential drop in supply due to travel restrictions or other potential impact,” (of the Coronavirus) said David Wellis, CEO, San Diego Blood Bank. “We are encouraging people to come donate blood to ensure a safe supply is available.”

San Diego Blood Bank strongly encourages all healthy individuals to 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. To make an appointment, visit www.sandiegobloodbank.org or call (619) 400-8251.

About San Diego Blood Bank

SDBB 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 extending into research. SDBB is an

independent, 501(c)(3) non-profit that serves hospitals in San Diego, Orange, Imperial and Los Angeles counties with blood transfusion products and reference laboratory services. SDBB currently operates six local donor centers and 10 bloodmobiles. SDBB's Cell Therapy Program provides lifesaving stem cell transplants to patients worldwide. For more information about SDBB, visit www.SanDiegoBloodBank.org or connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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