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## **LOCAL DEMAND FOR COVID-19 CONVALESCENT PLASMA RISING: SAN DIEGO BLOOD BANK CALLS FOR SUPPORT FROM THOSE RECOVERED FROM COVID-19**

**SAN DIEGO (Dec. 3, 2020)** – San Diego Blood Bank is seeing a sharp increase in hospital orders for COVID-19 convalescent plasma. Orders have more than tripled in the last month. On top of local demand, San Diego Blood Bank is being called upon to help supply national surge centers in anticipation of a spike in usage across the country.

San Diego Blood Bank was one of the first blood banks in the country to begin collecting COVID-19 convalescent plasma. In addition to supplying local hospitals, San Diego Blood Bank has supported surge centers and other blood banks across the country.

Plasma donations from those who have recovered from COVID-19 are needed to help others who are currently fighting the virus. This is because their plasma has developed antibodies against a virus.

**Anyone previously diagnosed with COVID-19** can sign up at [www.sandiegobloodbank.org/donateplasma](http://www.sandiegobloodbank.org/donateplasma).

To support the efforts, **ALL blood donations are being tested for antibodies** as part of SDBB's standard testing panel in order to qualify donations for COVID-19 convalescent plasma. If a donation tests positive, the plasma in the donated blood may be used to help hospital patients fighting COVID-19.

Historically, convalescent plasma (CCP) has been successfully used to treat SARS, MERS and the Spanish flu, so there is evidence that it may help people suffering from certain infectious diseases like COVID-19.

“We need anyone who has recovered from COVID-19 to contact us to see if they are eligible to donate their plasma,” said David Wellis, CEO of San Diego Blood Bank. “The need has already increased over the last couple of weeks and we anticipate even more requests from hospitals as we head into the new year.”

**Appointments are required to donate blood and convalescent plasma.**

To see if you qualify, please visit [www.sandiegobloodbank.org](http://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](http://www.SanDiegoBloodBank.org) or connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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