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NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR BLOOD DONATION THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Community is asked to donate blood and convalescent plasma after holidays

SAN DIEGO (Jan. 4, 2021) – San Diego Blood Bank (SDBB), the local blood bank serving San Diego County, is celebrating National Blood Donor Month throughout January by inviting eligible individuals to donate blood and convalescent plasma in 2021 with the goal of creating a robust supply that can meet local hospital patient needs.

National Blood Donor Month has been observed in January since 1970 with the goal of increasing blood and platelet donations during winter – one of the most difficult times of year to collect enough blood products to meet patient needs.

San Diego Blood Bank is currently antibody testing each blood donation as part of their regular testing panel to qualify donations for COVID-19 convalescent plasma. As this is NOT a diagnostic test, it will not detect active COVID-19 infections or recent exposure. Additionally, anyone who donates at a San Diego Blood Bank donation location or mobile drive throughout the month of January will receive a special-edition T-shirt - the second in a 3-part commemorative collection for blood donors (while supplies last).

“On top of local demand for blood and convalescent plasma, we are also being called upon to help supply national surge centers with plasma as there is a huge spike in usage across the country,” said Dr. David Wellis, San Diego Blood Bank CEO. “We need our community to come together and donate and there’s no better time than National Blood Donor Month.”

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.

Appointments are required and available by visiting sandiegobloodbank.org or by calling (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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