

Critical Need for Blood Donations

February 22, 2021

Blood Donations typically decrease during the winter months, the combined result of holiday activity, inclement weather and seasonal illnesses. This year, however, the COVID-19 pandemic has added an additional challenge to our ability to provide for the transfusion needs of our regional hospitals.

Over the past year, the pandemic has resulted in the cancellation of hundreds of regional Blood Drives, resulting in the loss of thousands of lifesaving blood donations. It has also forced the Blood Center to move to an appointment-only policy in order to accommodate current social distancing recommendations.

While our community Blood supply typically recognizes an uptick each Fall when our regional high schools and colleges are back in session, this has not been the case this year. With many schools adopting online or hybrid models for the 2020-21 school year, we were notified by many of these institutions that they will be unable to host Blood Drives for the foreseeable future, which has compounded an already difficult situation for your community's Blood supplier.

While the loss of blood drives at our regional high schools and colleges, as well as some area businesses, has resulted in a decrease in our community blood supply, the demand at our hospitals remains steady - more than 450 donations are needed every day in our community to help in the care of cancer patients, accident victims, premature infants and others requiring lifesaving transfusions. Blood cannot be manufactured, it can only come from the kind generosity of volunteer Blood donors. If there is ever a time to donate, now is that time.

In November 2020, Miller-Keystone Blood Center updated its donor eligibility guidelines, and as a result, many individuals previously deferred from donating may now, in fact, be eligible. For more information or [to schedule your lifesaving blood donation, click here.](#)