

DONOR INFORMATION

Common questions about blood donation

Every day people like you need blood: students, teachers, parents, brothers and friends! When blood is needed, blood must be there. About five percent of the general population gives blood on a regular basis.

Q: Who might use blood?

A: Everybody. In fact, it's estimated that six out of every 10 people will need blood or blood components during their lives.

Q: Is it safe? Does it hurt?

A: Donating blood is safe. All materials are used once, and then discarded. Donors cannot contract AIDS or any other infectious disease by donating blood. Most people feel fine after they give. The actual needle stick (venipuncture) hurts no more than a pinch.

Q: How much can I give?

A: Every donor is evaluated individually with safety in mind! When you donate whole blood, one pint is collected. Depending on your height, sex and weight, you can give up to 2 pints in an automated blood collection. For example, one donor may be able to donate two units of Red Blood Cells, another may donate one unit of Platelets and one unit of Plasma.

Q: How long will it take?

A: The entire donation process will take anywhere from 45 minutes to 2 ½ hours depending on which component(s) you donate. The time includes the interview process before and refreshments after the donation.

Major Blood Components

- Red Blood Cells carry oxygen to all parts of the body. They are used to treat patients who have anemia or who have lost blood due to injury or surgery.
- Platelets are critical in the clotting process and help control bleeding. Platelets are commonly used to treat patients with leukemia or cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy and bone marrow transplants.
- Plasma is the liquid portion of the blood. It contains clotting factors used to support hemophilia patients. Plasma also has vital proteins used to treat burn patients and critically ill patients who have suffered significant blood loss.
- There are several types of White Blood Cells. Granulocytes and macrophages protect against infection by surrounding and destroying invading bacteria and viruses. Lymphocytes aid in the immune defense.

Whole Blood Donation

Blood will be drawn from a vein in the arm and collected in a bag specially designed to store blood. Typically, each donated unit is separated into multiple components, such as Red Blood Cells, Plasma, Platelets and Cryoprecipitate.

Whole blood donation is one of several ways to donate blood. Automated blood collection equipment has introduced a special way to donate the exact components that patients need and allow more of a specific component to be collected than could be separated from a unit of whole blood.

Automated Blood Collection Methods

Blood will be drawn from a vein in the arm and passed through an aphaeresis instrument that centrifuges and separates the blood into its components. While the blood is being drawn, a small amount of anticoagulant (citrate) is added to the blood to prevent clotting during the procedure. After the targeted component(s) is/are collected, the remainder of the blood will be returned to the donor. If donating 2-unit Red Blood Cells, the donor will receive saline solution to assist in compensation for fluid lost. The body naturally replaces the components that are donated: plasma within several hours, platelets within 24 hours and red cells in about 56 days (112 for 2-unit Red Blood Cell donation).

Some potential side effects

There are **rarely** any serious complications to the donor. However, as in any medical procedure, there are certain risks involved.

The risks common to both whole blood and automated blood collection include nausea, vomiting, fainting, dizziness, bruising or redness in the area of the venipuncture and iron deficiency. More serious reactions may include seizures and, rarely, nerve injury in the area of the venipuncture.

In addition to these risks, automated blood collections may have other complications including shortness of breath, chest pain, decreased blood pressures, fatigue, decreased exercise tolerance for 3-5 days, allergic reactions, hemolysis and air embolism. Also, the long-term effect of the removal of lymphocytes is not clear. Side effects due to the anticoagulant include numbness and tingling sensations, muscle cramping and chilliness.

If you have any questions, please contact your local blood center.

MINOR DONOR PERMIT

I have read the information provided about donating blood. I give my permission for my child to donate and for that donation to be tested as explained below.

A sample from each blood donation will be typed and tested for hepatitis, syphilis, HIV (AIDS) and HTLV. These tests are performed to protect the patients who receive blood. Positive test results will be disclosed as authorized by law and the donor will be notified.

Student Name _____
(Print) Last First MI

Name (Parent or Guardian) _____
(Print)

Signature (Parent or Guardian)

Date _____

List the three best periods for student to donate.

Period	Instructor	Room
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Return this Minor Donor Permit form to the blood drive coordinator. **Form is required to participate.**