



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**COVID-19 DISRUPTS LOCAL BLOOD SUPPLY**  
*The Blood Center has critical need for blood donations*

GULF COAST REGION—The need for more blood donations is rapidly growing as surgeries start back up at local hospitals. With an increased need for blood transfusions, donors are essential to ensure the local blood supply is readily available for our community. Without consistent donors, we cannot guarantee patients have the blood they need.

“We are less than a one-day supply of blood on our shelves,” said Theresa Pina, Vice President of Operations at The Blood Center. “The Covid-19 pandemic continues to disrupt our community, and we are in critical need of blood donors as businesses and schools remain closed, fewer people are going to work, and hospitals are opening back up to elective surgeries.”

Units of blood are a vital lifeline for Houston’s health care industry and are used in surgeries, cancer treatments, and various medical procedures.

“Blood donations are critical to our community, and the need is constant,” Pina said. “The Blood Center is asking anyone who is feeling healthy to schedule an appointment at [giveblood.org](http://giveblood.org).”

The Blood Center updated its procedures to protect donors and staff during the COVID-19 crisis.

Visit [giveblood.org](http://giveblood.org) for more information and to schedule an appointment.

*The Blood Center is the sole provider of blood and blood components 24/7 to more than 170 hospitals and health care facilities in a 26-county Texas Gulf Coast region. Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center is a nonprofit organization and is accredited by the Food and Drug Administration. For more information or to help save lives, visit [giveblood.org](http://giveblood.org).*

*Commit for Life.®*

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A Nonprofit Community Blood Center and Member of America's Blood Centers, aaBB and the Texas Medical Center.