



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**

Andy Beshear
Governor

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Dear Public Health Colleagues:

On March 6, 2020, Governor Andy Beshear issued a state of emergency order, 2020-215, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, that directs only life-sustaining businesses may remain open. Such businesses are defined under the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) list identifying HEALTHCARE/PUBLIC HEALTH as Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce, and under that falls blood and plasma donation centers.

Based on these state and federal guidelines, blood and plasma donations can, and *should* continue, as they are considered a life-sustaining business, and are taking additional social distancing precautions and screening procedures consistent with President Trump's [Coronavirus Guidelines for America](#).

The FDA reports maintaining adequate levels of our nation's blood supply is critical. Every two seconds, a patient needs a transfusion. Blood donations have been dramatically reduced due to social distancing and the cancellation of blood drives. Blood donation centers can facilitate safe donations because they are skilled in infection control practices and already have procedures in place to prevent the spread of infections. They take steps to prevent staff and donors who are not feeling well or who have a fever from reaching the donor area.

Blood donors contribute immeasurably to the public health of our nation. It is important for healthy individuals able to donate to take the time to do so. U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams announced, "You can still go out and give blood. We're worried about potential blood shortages in the future." So please encourage those interested in donating blood to contact a local blood collection site and schedule an appointment:

AABB: <http://www.aabb.org/Pages/default.aspx>
America's Blood Centers: <https://americasblood.org/>
American Red Cross: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>
Armed Services Blood Program: <https://www.militaryblood.dod.mil/>
Blood Centers of America: <http://bca.coop/>
Kentucky Blood Center: <https://kybloodcenter.org/>
Western Kentucky Blood Center: <https://www.wkrbc.org/>

As Team Kentucky, thank you for your dedication to and passion for public health!