

### **READ THIS BEFORE YOU DONATE!**

Thank you for coming in today! We know that you would not donate unless you think your blood is safe. However, in order for us to assess all risks that may affect you or a patient receiving a transfusion, it is essential that you answer each question completely and accurately. If you don't understand a question, please ask the blood center staff. All information is confidential.

### **Donation Process**

#### **To determine if you are eligible to donate, we will:**

- Ask about your health and travel
- Ask about medicines you are taking or have taken
- Ask about your risk for infections that can be transmitted by blood – especially AIDS and viral hepatitis
- Take your blood pressure, temperature and pulse
- Take a blood sample to be sure your blood count is acceptable

#### **If you are able to donate we will:**

- Cleanse your arm with an antiseptic. Tell us if you have any skin allergies
- Use a new, sterile, disposable needle to collect your blood

### **Donor Eligibility: Specific Information**

#### **Why we ask about sexual contact**

Certain diseases such as AIDS and hepatitis, can be spread through sexual contact and enter your bloodstream. We will ask specific questions about sexual contact.

#### **What do we mean by "sexual contact?"**

The words "have sexual contact with" and "sex" are used in some of the questions we will ask you, and apply to any of the activities below, whether or not a condom or other protection was used:

1. Vaginal sex (contact between penis and vagina)
2. Oral sex (mouth or tongue on someone's vagina, penis, or anus)
3. Anal sex (contact between penis and anus)

#### **HIV/AIDS Risk Behaviors**

HIV is the virus that causes AIDS. It is spread mainly by sexual contact with an infected person or by sharing needles OR syringes used for injecting drugs. **Do not donate if you:**

- Have AIDS or have ever had a positive HIV test
- Have EVER used needles to take drugs, steroids, or anything not prescribed by your doctor
- Are a male who has had sexual contact with another male **IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS**  
(“Sexual contact with a(n)other male” means sexual contact with any person who has, or who has ever had, male genitalia.)
- Have EVER taken money, drugs, or other payment for sex
- Have had sexual contact **IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS** with anyone described above
- Have had syphilis or gonorrhea **IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS**
- Have been in juvenile detention, lockup, jail, or prison for more than 72 consecutive hours **IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS**.

Your blood can transmit infections, including HIV/AIDS, even if you feel well and all your tests are normal. This is because even the best tests cannot detect the virus for a period of time after you are infected.

**DO NOT donate to get a test!** If you think you may be at risk for HIV/AIDS or any other infection, do not donate simply to get a test. Ask us where you can be tested outside the blood center.

The following symptoms can be present before an HIV test turns positive:

- Fever
- Enlarged lymph glands
- Sore throat
- Rash

**DO NOT** donate if you have these symptoms!

#### **Why we ask about travel to or birth in other countries:**

Blood tests may not be available for some infections that are found only in certain countries. If you were born in, have lived in, or visited certain countries, you may not be eligible to donate.

#### **Why we ask about contact with someone else's blood**

Infectious diseases may be spread through contact with blood. We ask questions about contact with someone else's blood because this contact may present a risk to patients receiving a transfusion. When we ask about contact with blood, we mean any of the following:

- Exposure to non-intact skin (open wounds or skin that is chapped, scraped, or afflicted with dermatitis)
- An accidental needle-stick or other sharps injury that has been used on any individual or patient
- A human bite that breaks the skin
- Exposure to eye, nose, or mouth (mucous membranes)

If you have had any of these risk factors in the last 12 months, **do not** donate. If you work with patients or around blood, please carefully consider the last 12 months to ensure that none of these exposure risk factors apply to you.

#### **Information about Ebola Virus Disease or Infection**

Please **DO NOT DONATE BLOOD** if you have EVER had Ebola virus disease or infection.

#### **What Happens After Your Donation**

To protect patients, your blood is tested for several types of hepatitis, HIV, syphilis, and other infections. If your blood tests positive, it will not be given to a patient. There are times when your blood is not tested. If this occurs, you may not receive any notification. You will be notified about test results that may disqualify you from donating in the future. The blood center will not release your test results without your written permission unless required by law (e.g. to the Health Department).

After you donate, we will ask that you not participate (for the remainder of the day) in strenuous activity or critical work where safety requires your maximum abilities.