For Immediate Release
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As concern surrounding the impact of coronavirus increases, LifeSouth assures the community that it is safe to donate blood and encourages donors to help maintain a safe and adequate blood supply.

A sharp decline in donations is already being felt due to concerns about the virus. Although individuals are not at risk of contracting the coronavirus through the blood donation process, LifeSouth is taking every precaution to minimize the risk to donors. Blood donations are needed every day, and anyone who is in good health is encouraged to give.

“Respiratory viruses like COVID-19 are not known to be transmitted by blood transfusion and no cases of transfusion transmitted coronaviruses have been reported,” said Dr. Chris Lough, vice president of medical services for LifeSouth. “The most significant risk to the blood supply posed by COVID-19 is a lack of availability due to a decrease in donations.”

Hospitals have begun to voice concern due to a strained blood supply. Donating ensures that the community blood supply remains stable as the virus spreads, travel bans increase and the ongoing impact of the current flu season affects the number of donors able to give. LifeSouth, along with the AABB and America’s Blood Centers, urges businesses, schools, churches and community organizations to continue to hold blood drives and encourage blood donation.

To find a blood drive near you visit lifesouth.org or call 888-795-2707.

About LifeSouth:

LifeSouth is a non-profit community blood bank serving more than 100 hospitals in Alabama, Florida and Georgia. LifeSouth is committed to meeting the blood supply needs of hospitals and their patients by providing the highest quality blood components and services. With more than 30 donor centers, 45 bloodmobiles and 2,000 blood drives a month, the LifeSouth team is dedicated to making sure blood is there when a patient is in need.