

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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SHERWOOD BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULED MAY 20

SHERWOOD, Ark. (May 6, 2020) —As COVID-19 and resulting concerns continue to spread, additional challenges to the blood supply have occurred, including canceled and postponed blood drives. Arkansas Blood Institute depends on 1,200 donors per day to support the inventory needed for patients in more than 40 hospitals, medical facilities and air ambulances statewide and across the region. To help with the supply, the City of Sherwood is looking for at least 15 local blood donors who are willing to help save the lives of their fellow Arkansans.

On Wednesday, May 20, the city is hosting a blood drive inside a mobile unit set up at the Bill Harmon Recreation Center, located at 51 Shelby Road, in partnership with the Arkansas Blood Institute, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. Blood donors will receive a free t-shirt.

Donors also receive free health screenings and Donor Rewards points, redeemable at Arkansas Blood Institute's online store. If donors opt not to take the t-shirt, Arkansas Blood Institute will make a monetary donation to Global Blood Fund for blood center assistance in developing countries.

"Blood is a perishable product and we need constant donations not only to meet our community needs, but in case of local and national emergencies," said John Armitage, M.D., president and CEO of Arkansas Blood Institute. "We urge healthy adults to continue their regular blood donations so the lifesaving supply can be maintained for our local patients who depend on blood products during treatment for cancer, traumatic injuries and other life-threatening conditions."

According to the Arkansas Blood Institute, only ten percent of people in the United States who are eligible to give blood actually do and someone needs blood every two seconds, so the supply must constantly be renewed. Blood donation is safe and critically important, despite concerns surrounding coronavirus (COVID-19). Blood donation takes just about an hour, and each donation can save the lives of up to three patients. Whole blood can be donated every 56 days. Platelet donations can be made as often as every seven days, up to 24 times a year. Donors 16 and younger must weigh at least 125 pounds and provide signed parental permission; 17-year-olds must weigh at least 125 pounds; 18 year-olds and older must weigh at least 110 pounds. For other eligibility requirements, visit arkbi.org.

Appointments are not required but can save up to 15 minutes per donor by visiting www.arkbi.org or calling site organizer Blake Calloway at 501-835-6893.