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From: Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6) >
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2020 11:55 AM
To: NIAID Announcements <NIAID-announce@niaid.nih.gov>
Subject: Platelet Donations Down are Down Amid Coronavirus Outbreak -- Please Donate

Dear Colleagues:

The NIH Platelet Donor Center has an urgent need for healthy individuals to give lifesaving platelets to patients. The need for platelet donations is especially acute now with the coronavirus pandemic. While social distancing and increased telework are necessary to contain and slow the spread of coronavirus, we have seen a marked decline in platelet and blood donations for our patients.

To alleviate this shortage, NIAID and the Department of Transfusion Medicine (DTM) are co-sponsoring a two-week Platelet Drive from March 30 – April 10. Platelet collections, as well as whole blood and Double Red Cell donations, can only be made at the NIH Blood Bank on campus in Building 10, Room 1C713 Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. The Platelet Center at Fishers Lane is temporarily closed and platelet collections are now on the main campus through at least the next 30 days. This move helps to ensure that blood donors are protected by visitor screening, minimizing possible exposure to individuals at risk.

What is a double red cell donation? A double red cell donation enables donors to donate two units of red blood cells in one visit. During a procedure called apheresis, whole blood is separated through a cell separator and red blood cells are collected. The remainder of the blood components are returned to the donor along with saline to replace the lost volume.

I encourage participation of all employees who are eligible to provide a donation to benefit our NIH patients. I understand employees may be hesitant to participate under the current conditions, but I would like to reassure you that blood donation is a safe process.

[Additional precautions have been put in place at our Blood Bank](#) to help prevent the spread of infection and protect the health of donors and staff.

Thank you to all who support our quarterly platelet drives. Your efforts provide a lifeline for our patients. Those who participated in the last drive are now eligible to help once again. In appreciation of your dedication to helping others, NIAID grants administrative leave to any NIAID federal employee who donates platelets at the NIH Blood Bank. Specifically, you will be granted 4 hours of administrative leave to be used immediately following your platelet donation appointment. As always with such activities, please notify your supervisor for approval prior to donating at the NIH Platelet Center.. Contractor employees should speak directly to their contract companies to determine what leave