

MEDIC COVID-19 Update

3/23/20

Industry Stat: As of March 19, we have seen more than 12,000 blood drives cancelled across the blood industry, resulting in some 355,000 projected products.

MEDIC Stat as of 3/23/20: To date, MEDIC has had 72 drives and 2196 lost products.

MEDIC Regional Blood Center:

- Beginning March 23, 2020:
 - Donors at the four donor centers and all mobile drives will be seen by appointment only.
 - This will allow donors to follow the 6' recommendations for distance from others.
 - This will also allow donor flow to be smooth and reduce wait times.
 - We are asking donors to please continue to check the mobile drive schedule daily as the schedule can change.
 - **With the "Safe at Home" Order by Knox County, MEDIC is urging donors to continue to make and keep their appointments. MEDIC is an essential resource for 25 hospitals in 22 regional counties.**
- MEDIC Actions:
 - As blood is an essential resource for the healthcare system, and in an abundance of caution to protect the health and wellness of both our donors and collections staff, we are implementing the use of N95 masks so that we can continue to collect blood through the COVID-19 situation.
 - Staff, donors and visitors will undergo a daily check-in upon arrival at any facility or mobile drive.
 - The check-in will include a temperature check as well as answering if they feel healthy and well and if someone in the household has been diagnosed with COVID-19/Coronavirus.
 - Temperature must be 99.5 degrees or less to continue.
 - MEDIC will setup waiting areas so that donors are separated and not sitting next to one another.
 - Donors may be asked to wait in their car until we are ready to screen them.
 - We will not allow more than two donors on a bus at one time.

- After completing the initial check-in, each donor goes through a mini physical that includes a temperature check as well as a visual check on the donor's well-being. We look for coughing, nose draining or if the donor is having a hard time breathing.
- Individuals should not donate if they are feeling ill.
- Donors are asked a series of questions that include whether they have traveled outside the country.
- MEDIC follows appropriate infection control standards of donor rooms and mobile buses and uses single-use equipment for collection procedures.
- Blood collected at MEDIC is always tested for various infectious diseases.
- Blood donation is not a mass gathering or social event.
- MEDIC is following Knox County Health Department guidelines and updates.
- According to the FDA, there is no known risk of transmission of COVID-19 through the blood donation process or from blood transfusions.
- According to the FDA, there is no intrinsic risk of the safety of the blood supply, but there is risk to the availability of blood for patients in need because of an increase in cancelled donation appointments and blood drives.
- The blood on the shelves right now is the blood that would be used in a trauma/disaster situation, for surgeries and for cancer patients in need of a blood transfusion due to treatments.
- MEDIC serves 25 hospitals in 22 counties.
- **MEDIC is not a healthcare provider and thus does not provide a coronavirus test.**
- It is imperative that healthy and well individuals continue to donate in the coming weeks.
- **We encourage all donors to make an appointment at one of our four donor centers:**
 - Online at www.medicblood.org -> Click the donate tab and then on the center in which you'd like to donate
 - Call 865-524-3074