Blood Donation FAQs

Why Should I Give Blood?

One in four people will need a blood transfusion sometime in their lifetime.

Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.

Only 37% of the population is eligible to give blood.

Less than 10% give annually.

What's My Type?

You inherit your blood type from your parents, and it determines the type of blood you can receive and to whom it can be donated. The breakdown of blood types in the U.S. is as follows:

- Type O: 45%
- Type A: 40%
- Type B: 15%
- Type AB: 4%

Type O-negative blood can be given to people of all blood types.

People with Type AB positive blood can receive donations from all other blood types.

No matter what type of blood you have, a patient somewhere needs it.

If you have a rare type, there are fewer donations to go around. If you have a common type, more patients need your help. Blood centers often run short of types O and B red blood cells in particular.

Where Does Donated Blood Go?:

- 6 red blood cell units needed during heart surgery
- 20 red blood cell units needed during liver transplant
- 50 red blood cell units needed for trauma victim
- 8 platelet transfusions a week for cancer patient

What's the Impact?

A single blood donation can provide red cells, platelets, and/or plasma, meaning a single donation could be used to save three different lives.

A single person who gives blood once every 46 days from age 17 to 75 donates over 40 gallons of blood, potentially saving more than 10,000 lives.

Give blood today, then give again.

If you can’t donate, volunteer at a local blood drive.

Sources:
- redcrossblood.org
- mayoclinic.org/donate-blood-net-nw-req.html
- americanblood.org