



NEWS RELEASE

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Recovered COVID-19 Patients Needed for Plasma Transfusion

LEXINGTON, Ky. – April 7, 2020 – Kentucky Blood Center is partnering with local hospitals to collect and distribute convalescent plasma from individuals who have recovered from COVID-19.

While COVID-19 currently has no proven treatment, it is possible that convalescent plasma, a component of blood from patients who have recovered from COVID-19, may provide antibodies to fight the virus. Individuals who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 may be eligible to donate 14-28 days after complete resolution of their symptoms.

"Kentucky Blood Center is thrilled to be able to assist our hospital partners throughout the state in this cutting-edge medical treatment," said Kentucky Blood Center CEO Bill Reed. "Lifesaving is our business and we hope that this treatment option proves to be a new tool in the fight to save COVID-19 patients in Kentucky."

KBC has already begun collecting and distributing convalescent plasma and is expanding the capacity to do even more in the coming weeks. The first donation from a recovered Kentucky patient occurred Sunday, March 28 and plasma has been collected from 10 donors in total since then. Kentucky Blood Center has established an online registry form where recovered COVID-19 patients can express their interest in being a donor. The form is available [here](#).

"As cases are expected to peak in the coming weeks, the Kentucky Blood Center critically needs more convalescent donors to start building a plasma supply and stay ahead of the need," said Williams. "If you had a positive COVID-19 test and your symptoms have been gone for more than two weeks, you can take part in this potentially life-saving new way to address the coronavirus - and help fellow Kentuckians in need."

Potential donors will need documentation of their positive COVID-19 test. A patient may then be able to donate if they have been symptom-free for at least 14 days and a second COVID-19 test has negative results. KBC will work with the donor to obtain the second test if it has not already been completed. The donor will complete the blood donation health history questionnaire on the day of donation to qualify for blood donation. The plasma donation itself takes 1-2 hours.

About Kentucky Blood Center

Celebrating more than 50 years of saving lives in Kentucky, KBC is the largest independent, full-service, nonprofit blood center in Kentucky. Licensed by the FDA, KBC's sole purpose is to collect, process and distribute blood for patients in Kentucky. KBC provides services in 90 Kentucky counties and has donor centers in Lexington, Louisville, Pikeville and Somerset.