



THE BLOOD CENTER

Serving you for life!

Paul Adams
Public Relations Manager
504-319-7499
PADams@TheBloodCenter.org

For Immediate release

The Blood Center collects first COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma donation in South Louisiana today

New Orleans, LA. – The Blood Center will collect the first COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma (CCP) donation in South Louisiana this afternoon. Convalescent Plasma Therapy is part of an investigational study approved by the FDA, and administered by select regional hospitals, for use in the treatment of seriously ill patients fighting COVID-19. A dedicated donation site for CCP collections has been established for the convenience of eligible donors.

Dr. Tim Peterson, Medical Director for The Blood Center, explains: “Plasma from donors who have recently recovered from a COVID-19 infection may contain antibodies capable of neutralizing the virus. Studies suggest that the early transfusion of convalescent plasma in seriously ill patients has had a significant affect in decreasing ventilator dependency and length of hospitalization.”

Potential donors must be 17 years of age or older, be in good health and have a documented positive PCR test for COVID-19. Additionally, they must be symptom free for 28 days or more. If a donor has been symptom free between 14 and 27 days, then repeat viral PCR testing must be performed prior to the donation.

For more information on blood donation, please call 1-(800) 86-BLOOD or visit TheBloodCenter.org. The Blood Center is active on social media at @TheBloodCenter.

The Blood Center, a nonprofit organization led by a volunteer Board of Trustees, is the primary supplier of blood and blood components to more than 50 area hospitals and outpatient facilities throughout Southeast Louisiana and Southern Mississippi. The Blood Center operates 12 donor centers in the Gulf South.

###