

## Convalescent Plasma Consumers Drop-in Newsletter



U.S. FOOD & DRUG  
ADMINISTRATION

### DEVELOPING TREATMENTS FOR COVID-19: FDA Continues Exploring Plasma Treatment Options for Severely ILL COVID-19 Patients

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration continues to play a critical role in accelerating [medical countermeasures](#) to treat and prevent COVID-19. The Agency is engaged in a national effort to facilitate the development of, and access to, two investigational therapies derived from human blood. Convalescent plasma and hyperimmune globulin are antibody-rich blood products made from plasma donated by recovered COVID-19 patients. Prior experience with respiratory viruses, and limited data that have emerged from China, suggest that convalescent plasma has the potential to lessen the severity or shorten the length of illness caused by COVID-19. Although promising, convalescent plasma has not been shown to be safe and effective as a treatment for COVID-19; therefore, it's important to study its safety and effectiveness in clinical trials.

Plasma transfusions are generally safe and well-tolerated by most patients but can cause allergic reactions and other side effects.

As this work moves forward, encouraging individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 to donate plasma is the key to ensuring the availability of convalescent plasma to patients in greatest need. People who have fully recovered from COVID-19 for at least 14 days could have an immediate and direct impact in helping others who are severely ill by donating their plasma. We encourage such individuals to consider contacting their local blood or plasma collection center today to discuss their eligibility and potentially schedule an appointment to donate.

One donation of convalescent plasma has the potential to help up to four patients. Currently, we also encourage people who do not have COVID-19 to consider donating blood. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented challenges to the U.S. blood supply. Donor centers have experienced a dramatic reduction in donations due to the implementation of social distancing and the cancellation of blood drives. Blood is needed every day to provide lifesaving treatments to a variety of patients. Plasma and blood donations are critical for patients during this pandemic and we encourage those able to consider donating.