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# RapidPass Now Available for Blood Donors

SEPTEMBER 07TH 2015 BY DEE LOFLIN

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**Dexter, Missouri** - American Red Cross blood and platelet donors can now help save lives in less time by using the new Red Cross RapidPass online health history system.

RapidPass streamlines the donation experience by allowing donors to complete pre-donation reading and health history questions online from the convenience of a computer at home or work. It became available to donors locally on July 27 and is expected to reduce the time donors with a RapidPass spend at blood drives by up to 15 minutes.

“When people come to donate, they are giving more than blood or platelets – they are also generously giving their time,” said Todd Wagner, director of donor recruitment, Missouri-Illinois Blood Services Region. “RapidPass is a simple, convenient way for Red Cross donors to make the most of their time while helping save lives.”

To get a RapidPass on the day of a blood donation, donors should visit [redcrossblood.org/rapidpass](http://redcrossblood.org/rapidpass), complete all of the questions, then print their RapidPass or show it on a mobile device when they come to donate.

Though an appointment isn’t needed to use RapidPass, donors are encouraged to make an appointment by using the Blood Donor App, visiting [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or calling 1-800-RED CROSS to further expedite their donation.

How to donate blood

All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental consent in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

### About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.

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