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SoutheastHEALTH Hosting Blood Drive on Wednesday - Urgent Need for Blood

DECEMBER 20TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

SoutheastHEALTH Hosting Blood Drive on Wednesday - Urgent Need for Blood

Dexter, Missouri - SoutheastHEALTH Center of Stoddard County will host a Blood drive on Wednesday, December 21, 2016 from 1 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. The Bloodmobile will be located at 1200 North One Mile Road, Dexter. No appointment is necessary; however if you can go online to schedule your appointment it will decrease the time you have to wait. The need is great this time of year and the American Red Cross needs blood NOW!

A decline in donations occurs from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day when donors are busy with family gatherings and travel. However, patients don't get a holiday break from needing lifesaving transfusions. In fact, every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.

Platelets and type AB plasma also needed

Platelet donors and those with type AB blood are also continually needed to help ensure patients receive the lifesaving blood products they need. Platelets – a key clotting component of blood often needed by cancer patients, surgical patients and bone marrow recipients – must be transfused within five days of donation, so donations are constantly needed. Donors with type AB blood are urged to give blood or platelets to restock the plasma supply. Type AB donors have the universal plasma type, which can be given to patients of all blood types.

How to donate blood

The free Blood Donor App – available in app stores by searching for American Red Cross or by texting BLOODAPP to 90999 – not only makes appointment scheduling easy, but donors can also access their digital donor card and be notified when their donation is distributed to a hospital. Donors can also visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for more information. 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.

Blood donors in the Missouri-Illinois Blood Services Region can now save time at their next donation by using RapidPass to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, prior to arriving at the blood drive. To get started and learn more, visit redcrossblood.org/RapidPass and follow the instructions on the site.

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](https://www.redcross.org) or visit us on Twitter at [@RedCross](https://twitter.com/RedCross).

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