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RedCrossBlood.org

## **Indiana State Fairgrounds hosts World Blood Donor Day Red Cross blood drive to help during pandemic**

*Urgent need for blood donations as hospital demand increases*

**INDIANAPOLIS**, Ind. (June 8, 2020) — The Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center and Anheuser Busch are stepping up to help during the pandemic by hosting an American Red Cross blood drive to boost blood supplies. The blood drive will take place on World Blood Donor Day, Sunday, June 14, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Indiana State Fairgrounds and Event Center, 1202 East 38th Street in Indianapolis, with a goal to collect 75 blood donations.

(Donors should enter off Fall Creek Parkway through Gate 6 or off 38th Street through Gate 1. Check in and donations will be taken at Grand Hall, which is located directly across from the Indiana Farmers Coliseum. Parking is free.)

Every year on June 14, countries around the world celebrate World Blood Donor Day. The event, established in 2004, serves to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products, and to thank blood donors for their voluntary, life-saving gifts of blood.

The American Red Cross has an urgent need for blood donations to prevent another blood shortage as hospitals resume surgical procedures and patient treatments that were temporarily paused earlier this spring in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“This is a time to take care of one another as we all deal with the challenges of a pandemic,” said Sharon Smith, communications director, Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center. “Giving blood is one way we can make a difference right now to help our neighbors. We are proud to partner with the Red Cross to offer Indiana residents this opportunity to give back. We truly are all in this together, so let’s take care of each other and donate blood.”

All those who come to give at this drive will receive a T-shirt and a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card via email.

**Healthy individuals who are feeling well are asked to make an appointment to donate by downloading the free [Red Cross Blood Donor App](#), visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](#), calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device. The sponsor code for this event is “instatefair”.**

“You never know whose life you might help save,” said Sandra Ryden, donor recruitment account manager for the Red Cross Indiana Region. “Your blood could help someone battling cancer, a father having heart surgery or a premature infant. No matter who receives your blood, you can feel good knowing you’ve helped to make a difference to countless people with one donation.”

### **Blood drive safety precautions**

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and [additional precautions](#) – including temperature checks, social distancing and face coverings for donors and staff – have been implemented to ensure the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive and are required to wear a face covering or mask while at the drive, in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance.

### **About blood donation**

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 in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), 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 and platelet donors can 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, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](https://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) or use the Blood Donor App.

### **About the American Red Cross**

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% 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://redcross.org) or [cruzrojaamericana.org](https://cruzrojaamericana.org), or visit us on Twitter at [@RedCross](https://twitter.com/RedCross).

### **About the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center**

The Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center is a modern public event facility that annually hosts more than 400 meetings, shows, sports and agricultural events, including the Indiana State Fair. Laid out over 250 acres, the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center is home to more than 1,000,000 square feet of event space and offers the most flexible event venues in the state of Indiana. The year-round management of the Fairgrounds is overseen by the Indiana State Fair Commission which is a quasigovernmental agency that was established in 1992, with the mission to preserve and enhance the Indiana State Fairgrounds and the annual Indiana State Fair for the benefit of all citizens of Indiana. Additional information is available at [www.indianastatefair.com](https://www.indianastatefair.com).

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