



A message from President & CEO of The Blood Connection, Delisa English -

I want to personally reach out to you to alert you to a potentially dangerous situation with the state of the community's blood supply. Our community is experiencing a severe blood shortage that could last for several weeks if we don't take immediate action. Despite considerable efforts over the past months to modify our collection actions to counter the effect of closed businesses and schools, we simply cannot keep pace with the unprecedented demand for blood. That, coupled with the fact that blood donor turnout has decreased significantly as COVID restrictions have lifted, and more Americans have been vaccinated. Further, hospital partners are seeing higher need for blood as the number of previously deferred surgeries increases and trauma cases climb to historical highs. Simply said, the need for blood and blood products has increased significantly at a time when blood donations have declined to unprecedented lows.

Our multiple pleas to the community for blood donations over the past couple of months seem to have been ignored. The community's blood supply is only as strong as the community who supports it. Blood cannot be manufactured – it must come from a person willing to donate an hour of their time to help their fellow citizens.

As leaders in this community, we need your help.

- 1. Help share our message! Please help us amplify this critical need by sharing this with your constituents. A shareable post is attached.**
- 2. Set a leadership example and schedule an appointment to donate or visit us at one of our donation centers to raise awareness. You can find a list of our **blood drive locations here**, or a **list of our centers here**.**
- 3. Host a blood drive or encourage others to do so. **Click on this link to host a blood drive**.**

Again, we ask that you please join our efforts to ensure that our blood supply remains strong and stable. Our neighbors are counting on us. If you have any questions or would like to partner in another way, please call **864-751-3020**.

Sincerely,

Delisa K. English, President & CEO