

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD SERVICES GREATER CHESAPEAKE AND POTOMAC REGION

BLOOD FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND

- ◆ The Red Cross Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Region supplies more than 80% of the blood used in the Baltimore-Washington, Northern Virginia and South Central Pennsylvania area.
- ◆ The Red Cross Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Region is the 5th largest region in the United States serving Maryland, Southern Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., and Northern Virginia. We are a part of a national network of 35 American Red Cross Blood Services Regions.
- ◆ To meet our community needs the Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Blood Region imports over 60,000 units of blood from other American Red Cross Regions. Our objective is to increase collections to meet local needs.

THE DONATION

- ◆ Persons in good health, 17 years or older, weighing at least 110 pounds may give blood. (16 in the state of Maryland with written parental permission)
- ◆ People that are taking antibiotics for infection normally may not donate.
- ◆ People that have a sore throat, flu or cold may not donate.
- ◆ Most people taking high blood pressure medication can donate.
- ◆ Most people with allergies and diabetes can donate.
- ◆ Additional medical questions can be answered by calling 1-800-272-2048.
- ◆ The actual blood donation takes 8-10 minutes; however, the entire process, from registration to refreshment, will take approximately one hour.
- ◆ One pint of blood is given during the donation. It is quickly replaced by the body. A normal adult's body has between 10-12 pints of blood.
- ◆ An individual is able to donate blood every 56 days.

THE NEED FOR BLOOD

- ◆ Every 2 seconds, someone in our region receives blood.
- ◆ Approximately 95% of the population will need blood during their lifetime.
- ◆ Over 1300 blood donations are needed daily to supply the needs of patients in our community.
- ◆ A single shock trauma victim can use 100 units of blood in a few hours.
- ◆ A single liver transplant operation usually/or tends to require a minimum of 50 units of blood.

WHO USES THE BLOOD

- ◆ Each blood donation can be separated into components and may help three or more sick or injured people.
- ◆ 25% of all blood products are used by cancer patients.

THE SAFETY OF THE BLOOD SUPPLY

- ◆ It is 100% impossible to contract AIDS from donating blood. A new sterile needle is used for each person who gives blood. The needle is used only once and then it is destroyed.
- ◆ Each unit of blood undergoes extensive state of the art tests, whether it is the donor's first or 100th donation, to insure that the blood is safe for transfusion.

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FUN FACTS TO KNOW AND TELL

- ❖ If you began giving blood at the age of 17 and donated every 56 days until you reached age 76, you will have donated 48 gallons of blood.
- ❖ There is no upper age limit for giving blood.
- ❖ Each unit of blood you donate can help up to 3 different people.
- ❖ 95% of our community will use a blood product in their lifetime but only 5% of us actually donate blood.
- ❖ A single shock trauma victim can use 100 units of blood in a few hours.
- ❖ In a single day, a patient needing a liver transplant can require 200 units of blood products.
- ❖ 25% of all blood products are used with cancer patients.
- ❖ Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Region hospitals use about 1,000 blood products each day.
- ❖ Every 17 seconds, someone in our region receives a blood transfusion.
- ❖ 1 in 10 persons entering the hospital needs blood.
- ❖ The average transfusion is 3.4 pints.
- ❖ Women receive 57% of the blood transfused; men use 43%.
- ❖ The average adult body has 10-12 units of blood.
- ❖ A newborn baby has about one cup of blood in its body.
- ❖ By age 72, 97% of us will have needed blood.
- ❖ Only 5% of the medically eligible population give blood.