

A NEW ERA OF BLOOD DONATION ELIGIBILITY



America's Blood Centers®
It's About Life.

Did you know that the FDA has made eligibility changes that promote fairness and inclusivity in the blood donation process while maintaining the safety of the blood supply?

Blood centers around the country have implemented the updated FDA guidance that expands blood donor eligibility to more LGBTQIA community members! With this update, sexual orientation is no longer a consideration for donor eligibility. This significant change opens the doors for many individuals to now donate blood.

In accordance with these new FDA guidelines, a modified screening process has been implemented centering on an individualized donor assessment.

The FDA's prior guidance included donor eligibility questions that considered the gender of a donor and their sexual partners and required a three-month deferral for any male who has had sex with another male in the past three months.

The FDA's updated eligibility guidelines include the following deferral criteria:

Any individual who has had a new sexual partner in the past three months and has engaged in anal sex during that same period is deferred for three months from the most recent sexual contact.

Any individual who has had more than one sexual partner in the past three months and has engaged in anal sex during the same period is deferred for three months from the most recent sexual contact.

Any individual who has taken any oral antiviral medication to prevent HIV (PrEP or PEP) is deferred for three months from the most recent dose. These medications may delay detection of HIV and result in false negative test results.

Any Individual who has taken any long-lasting antiviral medication by injection to prevent HIV (PrEP or PEP) is deferred for two years from the most recent injection. These medications may delay detection of HIV and result in false negative test results.

Any individual who has ever taken any medication (i.e., ART) to treat an HIV infection is permanently deferred.

BLOOD DONATION ELIGIBILITY IS NO LONGER DETERMINED BY SEXUAL ORIENTATION

DONATE REGULARLY AND DONATE WITH PRIDE.

The donor history questionnaire has been updated to inquire about all donors' recent or multiple sexual partners within the past three months, regardless of gender of either party.

This change recognizes that susceptibility to infectious diseases, including HIV, is not determined solely by sexual orientation or identity.

This donor history questionnaire is gender-neutral and asks the same questions to all donors regardless of their gender or sexual orientation. Transgender and nonbinary individuals are welcome to donate blood.

These changes reflect the blood community's commitment to inclusivity while ensuring the safety of the blood supply. While important, they are one step in the larger process.

The blood and LGBTQIA communities are working to ensure the FDA swiftly implements further changes as quickly as scientific data warrants to bring even greater equality to the blood donation process.

Find Your Community Blood Center

America's Blood Centers' member organizations operate more than 700 blood collection sites providing close to 60 percent of the U.S., and a quarter of the Canadian, blood supply.



Host a Blood Drive with Your Community Blood Center

Download ABC's complementary Workplace Workbook to learn how to elevate your organization's impact on community blood donation.



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