

# Convalescent Plasma Donors Needed for NIH Research Study



## What is the Goal of this Study?

The aim of this study is to collect plasma from individuals who have completely recovered from a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis, documented by laboratory testing. This plasma may potentially be used in the treatment or prophylaxis of active COVID-19 infection.

## What is Convalescent Plasma and Why is it Important in the Fight Against the Novel Coronavirus?

Convalescent plasma from persons who have recovered from the infection contains a large concentration of antibodies against the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. This plasma can be used to treat patients who are ill with COVID-19 as part of a separate treatment study.

## How is Convalescent Plasma Donated?

A plasma donation procedure occurs through a process called apheresis. Blood will be withdrawn through a needle placed in a vein in your arm and will flow into a cell separator device. The plasma is separated from the red cells by a spinning procedure called centrifugation. The plasma is removed while the remaining cells are returned to you, either through the same needle or through a second needle in your other arm. A blood thinner, citrate, will be given to you through one of the needles to keep your blood from clotting while it is in the machine. The plastic kits used to collect the blood and apheresis products are sterilized, single-use, disposable sets that are not in contact with any person's body fluids other than yours. No blood products are given to you during these procedures. Depending on program needs, some of the plasma collected may also be used for laboratory purposes.

## What Will I Be Asked To Do?

- Undergo a screening evaluation and laboratory testing to identify if you are likely to have a high concentration of antibodies towards the novel coronavirus, also known as SARS-CoV2. You will be seen in the clinic, where a medical history and physical exam, along with a blood draw, will be performed; your blood counts will be evaluated and a determine persistence of infection.
- If you are found to be a good candidate to donate plasma, and you are willing, you will be asked to undergo at least 3 plasma donations, but no more than 20, no more than once in a 2-day (48 hours) period or twice in a 7-day period, for up to 240 days.

## Who is Eligible to Participate in This Study?

In addition to meeting the same requirements as whole blood donors, you should not participate in this study if you:

- Are under 18 years of age
- Have any sign of active infection, including but not limited to:
  - Subjective or documented fever (>37.5°C)
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath
  - Diarrhea
- Have taken antibiotics within the prior 48 hours
- Are considered immune suppressed (i.e. use of oral or parenteral steroids, high-dose inhaled steroids (>800 µg/day of beclomethasone dipropionate or equivalent) or other immunosuppressive or cytotoxic drugs

## Is There Any Benefits to Participating In The Study?

The potential benefit to you might be the knowledge that you are contributing to a public health research effort to develop a possible treatment for COVID-19. In the future, other people might benefit from this study because you are contributing to a public health research effort to develop a possible treatment for COVID-19.

If you are interested in participating in the Convalescent Plasma Study (reference protocol #20-CC-0092) please contact Sarah Pogue, RN, via email, at [spogue@cc.nih.gov](mailto:spogue@cc.nih.gov) OR call the NIH Blood Bank, at 301.496.1048

