

Frequently Asked Questions



How long does it take to give blood?

The entire process usually takes 45 to 60 minutes. Just 7 to 10 minutes is needed to draw your blood; the rest of the time is for registration and pre-donation screening, plus snacks and rest time afterward.

Where does my blood donation go?

Primarily to the hospitals that rely on Michigan Blood for their blood supply. Hospitals across Michigan, which are home to 3 million people, get their regular blood supply from Michigan Blood. After meeting all local needs, we share any excess blood with other communities across the state and nation. Through America's Blood Centers, a nationwide network of community blood banks, we also respond to blood needs resulting from major disasters and we answer military calls for blood.

How do I know I have the right type of blood to donate?

All blood types are needed, all the time. Your blood type will be determined as part of the testing performed on every unit of donated blood. After your second donation, you will receive a permanent donor registration card that shows your blood type.

How often can I give blood?

Every 56 days as long as you are healthy, 17 or older (16 with parent/guardian permission), and weigh 110 pounds or more.



How soon does my body replace the blood I donate?

Your body restores normal fluid volume in just 24 hours. Red blood cells take a little longer – three to four weeks.

When is someone too old to give blood?

There is no upper age limit for healthy people to donate blood.

How much blood will be taken from me during one donation?

The average whole-blood donation equals about one pint. This is an amount your body can replace in a short time. You have 8 to 12 pints of blood in your body. It's medically safe for healthy people to spare a pint every so often in the interest of saving other people's lives.



Michigan Blood

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