

## Convalescent Plasma Frequently Asked Questions

### What is convalescent plasma?

This is plasma collected from patients who have recovered from an infectious disease. Plasma from recovered patients contains antibodies that may be used to treat critically ill patients currently infected with the same disease.

### Is donating blood safe?

If you are considering donating blood for the first time, please know that the donation process is safe (2). Every day, people around the nation save lives by donating blood. Blood Bank of Alaska (BBA) is licensed by the FDA and is accredited by AABB (formerly known as the American Association of Blood Banks). Our staff is available to answer any questions that you may have regarding blood donation.

### How do I know if I am eligible to donate convalescent plasma?

Prospective convalescent plasma donors must meet all screening and eligibility requirements for regular blood donation. Female donors must either have never been pregnant or else test negative for HLA antibodies (HLA antibody tests performed by BBA at time of donation). Donors must have complete resolution of symptoms (if present) at least 14 days before donating.

According to the FDA, donors must provide evidence of COVID-19 documented by a laboratory test either by:

- Individuals who had symptoms of COVID-19 and positive test result from a diagnostic test approved, cleared, or authorized by FDA.

#### **OR**

- Individuals who did not have a prior positive diagnostic test and/or never had symptoms of COVID-19 may be qualified to donate if they have had reactive (positive) results in two different tests approved, cleared, or authorized by FDA to detect SARS-CoV-2 antibodies.

**Donors must provide evidence of COVID-19 documented by a laboratory test approved, cleared, or authorized by FDA.** A list of all current COVID-19 in vitro diagnostics is available at: <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/mcm-legal-regulatory-and-policy-framework/emergency-use-authorization#covidinvitrodev>.

Note: Laboratory reports must include the donor's name and date of birth and where the test was performed.

Please call us at (907) 222-5630 if you have any questions regarding your eligibility.

### **I did not receive a positive test for COVID-19. Can I use a note from my healthcare provider to show that I had COVID-19?**

No. BBA is only accepting recovered patients with documented viral or antibody laboratory test results for convalescent plasma donation.

### **How can I get an antibody test?**

We recommend that you contact your licensed medical provider. LabCorp is also providing [COVID-19 IgG antibody testing](#). You can learn more about their services by clicking [here](#).

### **What do I need to do to become a convalescent plasma donor?**

If you feel you may be a qualified donor for convalescent plasma, please complete the following steps:

1. Complete our [COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma Donor Request Form](#) available online and at any BBA location.
2. Once completed, please submit the form and a copy of your test results for COVID-19 to BBA through any of the following ways:
  - Via email to [QualityAssuranceDepartment@bbak.org](mailto:QualityAssuranceDepartment@bbak.org)
  - Via fax to (907) 563-1371
  - Drop off at any [BBA location](#)

Note: If you do not have a copy of your test results, please request that your licensed healthcare provider or the State of Alaska send them to BBA at [QualityAssuranceDepartment@bbak.org](mailto:QualityAssuranceDepartment@bbak.org).

3. Once we receive your completed form as well as a copy of your test results, we will contact you to schedule your appointment to donate!

### **How do I complete the donor request form online?**

1. Access the [Donor Request Form](#).
2. Download the form to your computer or phone (Note: Depending on your web browser, this may not be necessary).
3. Complete the required fields.
4. Save or print the form.
5. Submit the completed form through any of the following options:
  - Via email to [QualityAssuranceDepartment@bbak.org](mailto:QualityAssuranceDepartment@bbak.org)
  - Via fax to (907) 563-1371
  - Print and drop off at any [BBA location](#)

### **How do I save the donor request form?**

To save the donor request form to a desktop computer, please follow the instructions below for your preferred web browser:

#### Chrome

- Download the blank form to your computer.
- Complete the form using your computer's PDF viewing program (e.g. Adobe Reader, Adobe Acrobat).
- Save the completed form to your computer using your PDF program.

#### Chrome (alternate method)

- Complete the form in your browser.
- Press Ctrl+S or right click and select Save as.
- Save the file to your computer.

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Internet Explorer (IE) 11

- Complete the form in your browser.
- Click Save.
- Save the file to your computer.

### **I am having problems completing the donor request form electronically. What should I do?**

Paper forms are available at [each of our locations](#) if you are having difficulty completing the form electronically.

### **Can I donate convalescent plasma at any Blood Bank of Alaska (BBA) location?**

Yes, BBA is collecting convalescent plasma at both of our Anchorage locations, as well as our Fairbanks, Juneau, and Mat-Su facilities.

### **Do I need an appointment?**

Yes, appointments are required at this time. Appointments are available during [normal operating hours](#) at both of our Anchorage locations, Fairbanks, and Mat-Su facilities. Appointments are also available during limited hours at our Juneau facility.

Once we receive your completed [Donor Request Form](#) and a copy of your test results, we will contact you to schedule an appointment.

### **Is Convalescent Plasma a Promising Treatment for COVID-19?**

SARS-CoV-2 is novel (new) and clinical trials are still being performed regarding the effectiveness of convalescent plasma for COVID-19 patients. However, according to the FDA, convalescent plasma is a promising treatment that has also been studied in outbreaks of other respiratory infections including the 2009-2010 H1N1 influenza virus pandemic, 2003 SARS-CoV-1 epidemic, and the 2012 MERS-CoV epidemic (1).

### **References:**

1. FDA: Recommendations for Investigational COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma:  
<https://www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/investigational-new-drug-ind-or-device-exemption-ide-process-cber/recommendations-investigational-covid-19-convalescent-plasma>
2. FDA Statement: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: Blood Donations:  
<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-blood-donations>