



Your student wants to save lives!

Your student wants to help save lives in our community by donating blood! Patients in our community are in need of life-saving blood every day and your student's donation can help!



For more information, call 800-962-0628 or visit www.bloodassurance.org

About Us

Blood Assurance is a non-profit, full service, regional blood center serving local healthcare facilities in Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky, and North Carolina.

Our Mission

to provide a safe and adequate supply of blood and blood components in a cost effective manner to every area patient in need.

How to Help Your Student

- Read the **Blood Donor Educational Materials** and **Consent To Donate Blood** sections on the reverse side with your student.
- Be sure to sign the parental consent slip **in ink**.
- Make sure your student eats a good meal within 4 hours of donation, drinks plenty of fluids, and **brings proper ID**. (driver's license, birth certificate, or school record with birth date will be accepted)



Parental Consent Slip

Parent/Legal Guardian: Please complete this section and sign **in ink**. Have your minor/student bring it when he/she donates blood. The donor's legal name is required. **Do not use abbreviations or nicknames.**

I consent for my son/daughter to donate whole blood, apheresis platelets/plasma or double red cells if all requirements are met. In addition, I:

- Have read, understand and agree with the educational information and donor consent
- Give permission for my son/daughter to donate blood until he/she is 18 years of age, or until I withdraw my consent by written notice to Blood Assurance
- Understand that any positive test results from samples from my son/daughter's donation will be provided both to my son/daughter and to me until my son/daughter reaches 18 years of age.

The parent/guardian must complete IN INK:

Parent/Guardian (Signature): _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian (Print): _____

Date: _____

Student's Legal Name (Print): _____

DOB: _____

Your student will be provided with the following information prior to donation

What happens during the donation process?

Our donor care specialists will:

- Ask you for identification
- Measure your blood pressure, pulse and temperature and take a sample of blood from your finger to make sure it is safe for you to donate
- Ask questions in a confidential setting about your health, travel, and sexual history
- Insert a needle in your arm to collect blood

What are the different methods of donating blood?

You may give whole blood or, using a method called apheresis, you may give blood components including platelets, plasma, and single or double red cells. In whole blood donation, the blood is directly drawn into a bag. In apheresis, the blood is drawn into a machine that separates blood into components. Some portions of the blood are retained by the machine and the rest is returned to you. The blood is mixed with anticoagulant solution to prevent clotting. Some of the anticoagulant solution and/or some salt solution are returned to you with the blood.

What are the possible complications of whole blood and apheresis donation?

Blood donation is generally a safe experience. Few people experience side effects related to donation. The most common side effects include pain, bruising, redness or infection at the donation site. Donors may also experience lightheadedness, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, hyperventilation and fainting. Fainting can cause a fall in which the donor becomes injured. Other rare and potentially serious complications of donation include seizures, nerve, muscle or blood vessel damage, shock, air embolism, compartment syndrome (compression of nerves, blood vessels and muscle inside an enclosed space), blood clotting, severe allergic reaction, red cell destruction, irregular heartbeat, and death. Apheresis donors may experience tingling, low calcium and muscle twitching or spasms related to the anticoagulant solution. Regular apheresis donors may experience a reduction in lymphocyte count (a type of white cell). The long-term effects of this are unknown. Materials containing latex may be used during the donation process, so donors with this allergy should let Blood Assurance staff know in order to avoid possible severe reaction.

How can I replace the iron that I donated?

Blood donation may remove most of the body's iron stores in female donors of childbearing age and young or frequent donors of either sex. The impact of iron loss on health varies. Symptoms may include fatigue, decreased exercise capacity and pica (a craving to chew things such as ice or chalk). Because people are limited in how much iron they absorb daily (e.g. 2-4 mg/day), the goal is to replace the 200-250 mg of iron in donated blood over 1-3 months. A single large dose of iron or a single iron rich meal will not replace the iron lost in blood donation. Your healthcare provider or pharmacist may assist you in deciding what dose, type and duration of iron supplement to choose because iron supplementation is not right for everyone. A typical multivitamin with 18 mg of iron has been shown to boost iron stores when taken for 60 days following donation. Consuming citrus juice or foods rich in vitamin C along with an iron supplement or iron rich foods can help your body absorb the iron more effectively. Iron rich foods include meat, eggs, dried beans, peas, iron-fortified cereals, dark green leafy vegetables, dried fruits, nuts and seeds.

What happens to my blood and donor information following donation?

Your donated blood is used for transfusion to patients. Any blood or blood samples remaining after patient needs are met may be used for research or commercial use in order to learn more about blood transfusion, develop new treatments and lab tests, and to advance science and patient care in general. Donor information may also be used for scientific research. Researchers are not provided with any donor information that would allow them to identify a particular donor. Blood and donor information may be kept indefinitely. Donor participation is voluntary and without financial benefit to you. You may change your mind at any time without affecting your relationship with Blood Assurance. If you experience a medical issue following your donation or have further questions, then please call our main line at 1-800-962-0628.

Your son/daughter will be asked to sign the following donor consent on the day of donation:

I voluntarily donate my blood, blood samples and donor information to Blood Assurance to be used for any purpose Blood Assurance deems appropriate, including, but not limited to, patient treatment, research and commercial use. In addition, I:

- Have read and understand the Blood Donor Educational Material including the information on complications of blood donation
- Answered all questions honestly and accurately and will not donate if I believe that my blood could put others at risk
- Understand that trained staff will insert a needle into my arm and collect blood
- Will be tested for HIV, hepatitis, syphilis and other infectious diseases
- Know that my blood may be selected for further tests, some of which are not licensed by FDA
- Understand that in some instances testing cannot be performed (for example, not enough sample) and my unit will be discarded
- Will follow the post-donation instructions and spend 15 minutes having drinks and snacks in the waiting area following donation
- Understand that I may be deferred from donation and, if so, will be notified of the reason and length of time of the deferral
- Understand that Blood Assurance is not responsible for medical consultation resulting from donor screening, donation or testing
- Recognize that blood donor records, including mine, are subject to inspection by FDA and other regulatory agencies
- May ask questions about whole blood and apheresis donation and withdraw my consent at any time

The results of my testing:

- Will be shared with me if positive or inconclusive and also with my parent/guardian if I am below age 18
- Will not be released to others without my written consent unless required (e.g. health department, etc.)