ABC Statement on COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma
(April 3, 2020)

America’s Blood Centers and its members are working closely with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to begin collecting and distributing convalescent plasma from individuals who have recovered from COVID-19.

While COVID-19 currently has no proven treatment, it is possible that convalescent plasma, a component of blood from patients that have recovered from COVID-19, that contains antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19), may provide passive immunity for certain COVID-19 patients. Individuals who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, which was confirmed with a positive laboratory test, may be eligible to donate 28 days after complete resolution of their symptoms. They will need a note from their treating physician indicating the date of testing. For individuals with a confirmed diagnosis but whose symptoms completely resolved between 14 and 28 days prior, a negative follow-up COVID-19 test will be needed before donation. For individuals who were diagnosed but did not get a confirmatory test, blood tests may be done to confirm their blood contains antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 before donation.

For individuals meeting the above criteria of recovery from COVID-19, the donor center will further evaluate their eligibility for donation which might include additional prescreen blood testing as well as routine donor screening. To be eligible to donate convalescent plasma, donors must meet all regular blood donor requirements.

Individuals who have had a confirmed case of COVID-19 and have since experienced a full recovery should contact their local blood center to determine their eligibility. To find the blood center closest to you, visit https://americasblood.org/for-donors/find-a-blood-center/.

Physicians and hospitals can learn more by visiting the FDA website on convalescent plasma emergency use.