

Michigan Trauma Coalition



2843 E. Grand River #254 - East Lansing, MI 48823

Dear Members of the Michigan Legislature,

June 30, 2021

On behalf the of the Michigan Trauma Coalition (MTC), we are asking that you encourage your constituents to donate blood this holiday weekend and throughout this summer. **Blood donation centers in Michigan and throughout the United States face a severe blood shortage** due to an unprecedented number of blood drive cancellations in response to the coronavirus outbreak. Healthy individuals are needed now to donate to help patients counting on lifesaving blood.

As the coronavirus pandemic has grown here in the U.S., blood drive cancellations have grown at an alarming rate. To date, nearly 2,700 Red Cross blood drives have been canceled across the country due to concerns about congregating at workplaces, college campuses and schools amidst the coronavirus outbreak. These cancellations have resulted in some 86,000 fewer blood donations. More than 80 percent of the blood the Red Cross collects comes from drives held at these locations.

Right now, hospitals are responding to an atypically high number of traumas and emergency room visits. In comparison to 2019, the Red Cross has seen red cell demand from hospitals with trauma centers climb by 10 percent in 2021 – more than five times the growth of other facilities that provide transfusions. Twenty to 40 percent of trauma deaths that occur after hospital admission involve massive hemorrhaging. In these dire circumstances, doctors may need hundreds of blood products, depending on the severity of the trauma, to help save a life.

In addition, there is great hospital demand for blood as patients who previously deferred care during the COVID-19 pandemic present with more advanced disease progression, therefore requiring increased blood transfusions.

It is because of this MTC and MHSA ask you to **encourage you and your constituents to donate blood and help those in need**. We thank you for your support on this critical and timely issue.

Sincerely,

Sandi Jones

MHSA, LLC.

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