

What happens to my blood donation after I give?

As soon as a blood donation has been collected at a Memorial Blood Centers donor center or blood drive, it is processed and prepared for patients. This highly-regulated process ensures that the blood is safe, and that the right blood type and product is available for the right patient.



A combination of pre-donation screening and rigorous testing ensures the safety of blood supplied by Memorial Blood Centers.

Learn more at MBC.ORG



**Memorial
BLOOD CENTERS**

A Division of Innovative
Blood Resources



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1 PREPARING YOUR BLOOD

After your unit of blood is collected—along with several small vials used for testing—it is labeled and then transported to one of our two component laboratories, located in St. Paul and Duluth. The small vials for testing are transported to the donor testing laboratory in St. Paul.

2 SEPARATING BLOOD COMPONENTS

Blood donations are separated into components, including red cells, platelets, and plasma.

3 TESTING

Your blood is typed, which includes identifying its ABO type and a positive or negative Rh factor. Each vial of blood also is tested for safety, including tests for:

- HBV (Hepatitis B Virus)
- HCV (Hepatitis C Virus)
- HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)
- HTLV (Human T-cell Lymphotropic Virus)
- Syphilis
- Unexpected red cell antibodies that may have formed in response to an earlier exposure to blood (e.g., through transfusion or pregnancy)
- West Nile Virus (WNV)
- Sickle cell trait (performed on donors enrolling in the Sickle Cell Program)

No blood is released for transfusion without passing the required tests.

4 STORAGE AND TRANSPORT

After your blood has been separated, passed all tests, and been properly typed and labeled, it is stored at Memorial Blood Centers in St. Paul or Duluth. Blood components are carefully packed in special temperature-controlled containers.

It is now ready for distribution to patients, whether as a product ready for transfusion or for manufacture into other life-saving products (like albumin or IVIG-antibodies). Products not needed for transfusion may be used for research or education.

5 HELPING PATIENTS IN NEED

The final step in your donated blood's journey is when the donation you have made reaches the right patient in need.

