

Anthony Cava
President and Chief Executive Officer

April 28, 2020

Good Morning:

The team at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset (“RWJUH Somerset”) continues to do amazing work caring for our community. The acts of compassion and teamwork that we are all seeing each day reinforces our message that they are all heroes. Thank you again for all your thoughtful messages and donations to our hospital.

The following is an overview of current conditions at RWJUH Somerset:

- ***Correction** to last week’s report: we provided care to 452 patients who have tested positive for and are under investigation for COVID-19.
- To date, as of April 27, we have provided care to 518 patients who have tested positive for and are under investigation for COVID-19.
- To date, we have discharged 406 patients who tested positive for COVID-19.
- We are closely monitoring our supplies of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and critical care equipment. We are adhering to CDC guidelines.
- We have seen some flattening of the curve and have seen a decline in new COVID-19 admissions over the past week. We were able to close one of our four COVID-19 inpatient units this weekend.
- Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital New Brunswick has started its own convalescent plasma donor collection program. See attached flyer for more details.
- To date, we have tested over 1200 patients.

As always, we are still caring for those who are experiencing other emergencies such as patients with heart attacks, strokes or other critical illnesses and injuries.

The entire team is doing truly amazing work under extraordinarily difficult circumstances. I am continually impressed with their selfless dedication to our patients, colleagues and the community-at-large.

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The outpouring of support for our caregivers and staff during this pandemic has been extremely moving. If you are interested in providing assistance to our front-line staff, please consider making a contribution to the Emergency Response Fund. Your gift will help us address the growing needs arising as a result of the challenges presented by this crisis and will be used to support our comprehensive emergency care efforts.

To text a gift, text **RWJBH** to **24365**, or visit rwjbh.org/giving/rwjbarnabas-health-foundation/give-now.

Thank you for your commitment to the communities we serve and your efforts to ensure that everyone remains safe.

Please be well and practice good self-care, including diligent handwashing, responsible social distancing, masking in public and stay home if you are sick.

Sincerely,



Anthony Cava, M.S., RPh., FACHE
President & CEO

COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma Donor Information

Qualification:

1. 28 days after resolution of COVID-19 symptoms
 - No sore throat, cough, or shortness of breath
 - No fatigue or malaise
 - No fever no fever (for 72 hours, temperature NOT greater than 99.5)
2. Proof of positive COVID-19 laboratory testing
OR
Medical certificate/attestation form, that has been signed by a physician, that you had COVID-19 Infection.
3. Must meet all medical criteria for volunteer blood donor eligibility and suitability:
 - >17 years old (16 years old with parental consent)
 - Be in good health
 - Weigh at least 110 pounds (120 pounds if 16 years old)
 - Present a valid photo identification with signature.

Our Blood Donor team will ensure that you are feeling healthy and well on the day of donation, and that you are not taking any antibiotics or other medication for infection

- Ask about your health and travel history
- Ask what medications you are taking or have taken
- Take your blood pressure, pulse, and temperature
- Take a blood sample to ensure your hemoglobin is acceptable

Some reasons why donations can be deferred for another time:

- Blood pressure / pulse that is too high or too low
- Low iron levels in the blood
- Active cold symptoms
- Recent surgery
- Active allergies and or asthma
- Certain cancers
- Received a blood transfusion within the last year
- Residence in Europe between 1980 to 1996
- Certain medications, vaccines, growth hormones, transplants or grafts
- Women who have ever been pregnant will need to have a negative TRALI test

DONOR COLLECTION LOCATION:

**Robert Wood Johnson
University Hospital Blood Services**
Clinical Academic Building
125 Paterson Street – Suite 4200
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Appointments are required (Monday – Friday only)

- To make an appointment call:
732-675-9384 or 732-235-8100 ext. 221
between 9 am to 5 pm
- Allow a minimum of 1.5 hours for your donation
- Please make sure you eat well and drink plenty of fluids before your donation appointment

Parking will be validated for Paterson Street Deck located across from the Clinical Academic Building.

**Robert Wood Johnson
University Hospital**

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