

# Red Cross now testing blood donations for COVID-19 antibodies

As of June 15 and for a limited time, the American Red Cross is testing all blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies, providing donors insight into whether they have been exposed to this coronavirus.

At the same time, there continues to be an urgent need for blood donations as hospitals resume surgeries and treatments that require blood products.

Antibody testing will indicate if the donor's immune system has produced antibodies to this coronavirus, regardless of whether they developed symptoms.

Donations will be tested using samples pulled at the time of donation and sent to a testing laboratory where they will also undergo routine infectious disease test-

ing. A positive antibody test result does not confirm infection or immunity.

COVID-19 antibody test results will be available within 7 to 10 days in the Red Cross Blood Donor App or donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org.

The test has been authorized for emergency use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

"As an organization dedicated to helping others, the Red Cross is pleased to provide more information about COVID-19 to our valued donors," said Dr. Erin Goodhue, executive medical director of direct patient care with the Red Cross Biomedical Services. "If you are feeling healthy and well, please schedule an appointment to not only help saves lives but also

learn about your potential exposure to COVID-19."

The Red Cross is not testing donors to diagnose illness, referred to as a diagnostic test.

Donation appointments can be made by downloading the free Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Thanks to Amazon, all those who come to give in the month of June will receive a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card via email.

Restrictions apply, and additional information and details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/Together.

### Blood drive safety precautions

To protect the health and

safety of Red Cross staff and donors, individuals who do not feel well or who believe they may be ill with COVID-19 should postpone their donation.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions — including temperature checks, social distancing and face coverings for donors and staff — have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance.

Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive and are required to wear a face covering or mask while at the drive, in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance.

**About blood donation**  
All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood.

High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of

their donation, before arriving at the blood drive.

To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families.

The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission.

For more information, visit redcross.org or cruzrojaamericana.org.

## Applications being accepted for City Council positions

In the Nov. 3, 2020 election, the offices of Mayor, Ward 2 City Councilor, Ward 4 City Councilor and Councilor At Large will be on the ballot.

The office of mayor is currently held by Jeff Gowling; City Councilor Ward

2 is vacant; Ward 4 City Councilor is currently held by Greg Ervin; and Councilor At Large is currently held by Kenneth Michael Roberts.

The mayor is a two-year term and the city councilor positions are four-year

terms. The deadline to apply is Aug. 25.

For more information, contact City Recorder Trudy Borrevik at 541-942-5501.

## CITY from A1

as were assistance projects to jumpstart the local economy.

The city's permanent tax rate continues to be \$7,208.7 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

"I honestly have to say, I am totally unsure about what the next year will bring," wrote Meyers in the proposed budget. "The 2020-21 budget will have to be closely monitored."

The adopted budget came in \$1,742,850 less than the 2019-20 budget.

In other City Council news:

Parklets are sidewalk extensions into street parking spaces which provide space for people to rest or dine, often with seating and tables.

The structures are promoted as a cost-effective way to add public gathering space and attract more businesses and consumer activity to an area.

The pilot study will accept applications from through Nov. 15, 2021 and issue a total of three parklet permits for the study period, limiting installment to one parklet on each block frontage.

The parking study will provide data on vacancy

rates, frequency of space usage and usage rates of surrounding parking lots.

"While I still have grave concerns over this ... I do agree with the council's direction on this," said Fleck.

On June 8, Fleck expressed reservations about the project due to the lack of a parking study and concerns about people sitting adjacent to the right-of-way.

Councilors also amended the project to apply only to businesses which serve food.

Final designs for the parklets are expected to be ready next week.

### Parklets

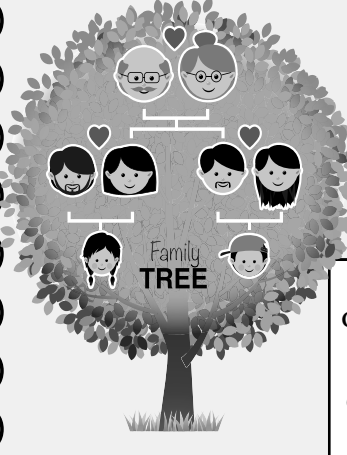
Councilors approved two applications for the construction of parklets in front of downtown businesses Jack Sprats and Axe and Fiddle.

Two applications from developer Les Blackstone were rejected due to the accompanying businesses not yet being open.

In their June 8 meeting, councilors voted to proceed with a two-year parklet pilot program, with a single dissenting vote from Councilor Mike Fleck.

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