



REQUEST FOR COVERAGE

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MEDIA ADVISORY:

Boerne community encouraged to donate at community blood drive to maintain supply for area hospitals, avoid public health emergency

Donors required to make appointments to manage flow and avoid crowding

WHO: The South Texas Blood & Tissue Center (STBTC) and Saint Peter the Apostle Catholic Church are hosting a special community blood drive at the church's gym.

WHAT: With virtually all blood drives canceled because of concerns about coronavirus, healthy people are urgently asked to make an appointment to donate at a special drive at the Saint Peter the Apostle Catholic Church gym. The location provides adequate space to allow for recommended social distancing between donor beds and in waiting areas.

Donors are required to make an appointment to manage flow and avoid crowding. Visit SouthTexasBlood.org/Give-Now to schedule, or call 210-731-5590.

The need for blood donations continues, as transfusions are necessary every day for surgery patients, accident victims, new moms and their babies, and cancer patients. The need is especially acute for new donors and those with type-O blood. The U.S. Surgeon General and the U.S. Food & Drug Administration this week asked the public to continue to give blood, which is considered an essential activity.

The FDA has noted that blood donation is a safe activity, and that there have been no reported cases of transmission of coronavirus through the blood supply.

In addition to social distancing, STBTC, a subsidiary of San Antonio nonprofit BioBridge Global, is taking [numerous precautions to keep donors safe](#), including additional sanitation measures and temperature checks of potential donors and staff as they enter facilities. All donors undergo a mini physical, and they are asked about recent travel and other potential exposure to COVID-19.

An additional drive is planned in Boerne on April 18.

WHEN: **Saturday and Sunday, March 28-29, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

WHERE: Saint Peter the Apostle Catholic Church (gym)
202 W Kronkowsky St, Boerne, TX 78006

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About the South Texas Blood & Tissue Center: The South Texas Blood & Tissue Center (STBTC) is a nonprofit community blood center that provides blood, plasma, platelets and other blood components to more than 70 hospitals in 48 South Texas counties. It is the largest blood supplier in our region. STBTC has a proud 45-year history serving the South Texas community. The center is a subsidiary of BioBridge Global, a nonprofit organization comprising services for regenerative medicine and research including blood banking and resource management; cellular therapy; umbilical cord blood collection and storage; donated human tissue recovery and distribution for transplant; and testing of blood and plasma products to help patients in South Texas, the United States and worldwide. STBTC has seven donor rooms in South Texas and conducts thousands of mobile blood drives each year. Visit us at SouthTexasBlood.org and BioBridgeGlobal.org.