Plasma Donation is Essential

The Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association requests the assistance of state and local authorities in ensuring that essential plasma donations can occur during the COVID-19 crisis.

The federal government developed an "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce" list[1] to help state and local authorities determine what should stay open during this time. Every state's orders in response to the COVID-19 crisis include pharmaceutical manufacturing in the list of businesses that can remain open, and most specifically recognize plasma donors and plasma center employees as essential.

Plasma donation is the first step in manufacturing pharmaceuticals known as plasma protein therapies for individuals with rare, chronic conditions including primary immunodeficiency diseases, chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, bleeding disorders such as hemophilia, alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency (genetic emphysema), and hereditary angioedema, as well as albumin which is used in numerous emergency situations. Healthy, eligible individuals donate plasma at more than 800 centers across the United States.

PPTA asks that the state and local leaders that are on the frontlines of this crisis help us in ensuring these essential plasma donations will continue. You can do this by:

- Encouraging your residents to donate plasma;

- Posting on your website a link to donatingplasma.org where individuals may find a local plasma donation center; and

- Informing your staff and colleagues of the essential activities that must be allowed to continue at plasma donation centers.

Please contact Brenna Raines (braines@pptaglobal.org) or Bill Speir (bspeir@pptaglobal.org) if you have any questions or comments.

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[1] U.S. Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency, *Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce: Ensuring Community and National Resilience in COVID-19 Response* (2020). Retrieved from https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CISA_Guidance_on_the_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workforce_Version_2.0_Updated.pdf