



March 6, 2020

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **Carter BloodCare remains vigilant during evolving COVID-19 outbreak**

*Blood donations are safe and highly encouraged*

BEDFORD, Texas (March 6, 2020) – Carter BloodCare recognizes that there are concerns surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak. As your community blood center, be reassured that we are closely monitoring disease progression. We have daily communications with AABB, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The blood banking community members also remain in close contact with each other about best practices. Carter BloodCare’s mission is at the heart of what we do – saving lives by making transfusion possible.

Coronaviruses, which include agents such as SARS, MERS and the common cold, have never been spread by blood transfusion and there are no reported cases of transfusion-transmitted COVID-19, which is also a coronavirus.

Blood donation remains safe. The first line of protection for the blood supply is the routine health screening of donors. This includes our asking if you are healthy and feeling well on the day of donation. If you have any symptoms of illness, including cold or flu you should not present to give blood. Donors are routinely screened for temperature, pulse rate, blood pressure and hemoglobin.

Carter BloodCare encourages all eligible blood donors to make and keep appointments. Your donations are essential.

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**Contact:**

Linda Goelzer  
817.412.5314/cell 817.709.9103

[lgoelzer@carterbloodcare.org](mailto:lgoelzer@carterbloodcare.org)