

# Blood Shortage Plagues Sarasota-Manatee and Nation

By Anna Bryson—Sarasota Herald Tribune, posted Mar 18, 2020

A severe shortage of blood donations is sweeping the nation, and the Sarasota-Manatee area, due to coronavirus concerns and blood drive cancellations.

SunCoast Blood Centers, a local nonprofit, is urging healthy people over the age of 16 to donate now to meet growing needs and stem the blood shortage.

“We’re not seeing the donors that we need and the volume that we need them,” said Jayne Giroux, director of community development for SunCoast. “As the pandemic unfolds, this situation is likely to get much worse.”

Having enough blood supply on the shelves of local hospitals is crucial every day, but especially now, when the community’s medical resources are operating at full capacity.

“We need to have enough blood on the shelves for emergencies and cancer patients,” said Robert Harper, director of quality insurance at SunCoast Blood Centers. “There’s been a strain on blood centers trying to recruit donors to come in during this time.”

Over 100 blood drives have been canceled due to concerns about gathering at busy locations, such as shopping centers and businesses. Drives have also stopped at local high schools, which are now closed across the state until April 15.

“We rely on our high school donors,” Harper said.

Nearly 2,700 Red Cross blood drives across the nation have been canceled, resulting in about 86,000 fewer donations and more cancellations are expected, according to USA Today.

At SunCoast, there has been a loss of more than 1,000 units of blood due to blood drive

cancellations. At brick and mortar locations, there has been a 40% decrease in donations.

“Should a severe trauma come in, like some that we have seen in the past where a single patient needs upwards of 150 units of blood, that blood may not be available.

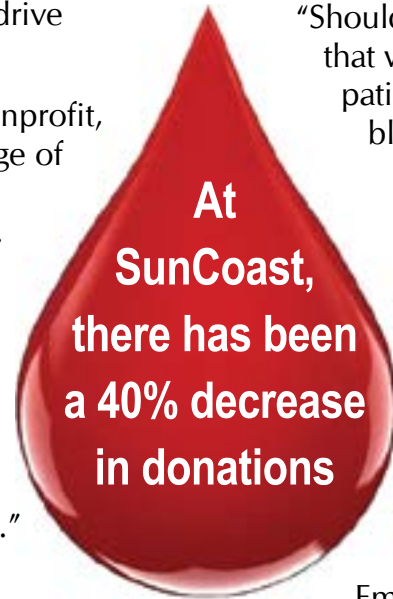
And to us, that is the most devastating thing that we could even imagine,” Giroux said. People are concerned about coming to SunCoast Centers, but Harper and Giroux stressed that blood donation centers are a safe place to be and their workers take rigorous safety measures to ensure that everybody is clean and safe in the facilities.

Employees are subject to a symptom check prior to every shift, they disinfect every donor touch point, including donor beds, arm rests and tablets between each donation, and the sign-in process has been changed to a paperless and pen-free process.

“A donor center or a blood mobile is probably the safest environment that you can be in right now,” Giroux said.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has said that generally, respiratory viruses are not known to be transmitted by blood transfusion, and worldwide there have been no reported cases of transfusion-transmission of any coronavirus.

SunCoast Blood Centers have extended their hours to collect more blood samples. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are encouraged. Donors may schedule an appointment to give blood at any SunCoast Donor Center or bloodmobile. Call 866-972-5663.



SPECIAL EDITION



## Be Informed. Be Safe. Be Prepared.

Jan Lazar— MCA Board President

In these extraordinary times, we want to reach out to give you more information. This special edition is to update you on what is happening and to keep you informed. Safety and preparedness for the challenges that lie ahead are crucial. We are working to move forward to a better tomorrow.

## Designated Walking Areas

Your safety is always our primary concern. The golf courses and golf cart paths are ONLY for golfers who have reserved playing time on our courses.

FOR YOUR SAFETY —The Meadows course is currently closed for renovation and is an active construction site, therefore trespassing can be dangerous and is not permitted. Residents are not allowed to walk, jog, rollerblade, bike, or walk your dog on The Meadows Country Club golf courses and cart paths at any time. Maintenance is also being done on the Highlands and Groves courses as well, so unless you have a reserved tee time, there should not be residents on the greens and golf cart paths.

Please note, golf courses are being monitored for inappropriate activities by our Safety Patrol. We have adopted a no trespass standard to ensure the safety of all.

The Meadows offers more than 14 miles of walking and biking trails, separate from golf cart paths, for your enjoyment and use. We are pleased to see residents engaging in outdoor activities as a way to cope with the COVID-19. Whether you choose to bike, ride, walk or drive, please be safe and respectful of others and follow right-of-way guidelines outlined in our Pride and Preservation document under “Other MCA Documents” on the website.

We appreciate you working with us so we can make The Meadows the best place to live. Be safe. Be smart. Be well.

**Hurricane pamphlets are available at the MCA Library.**

# YOUR HEALTH & WELL-BEING



## STOP THE SPREAD. STAY HEALTHY. STAY HAPPY.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on protecting yourself, how to stop the spread and what to do if you feel sick can be accessed by visiting [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). Here are some common sense tips, MCA ideas and COVID-19 must-dos to stay healthy.

### Well-Being Tips

- Stay connected with MCA Constant Contact emails for the latest community news. Sign up today.
- Make time to unwind. Check out MCA's virtual activities, take a walk on designated walking paths, or indulge in your hobbies through virtual options.
- Stock up on supplies, for COVID and hurricane preparedness.
- Use this time to get organized.
- Reach out, stay in touch by phone, text, and video chat with family members, friends and neighbors.
- Keep informed but give yourself a break from news overload.
- Eat healthy food and get exercise, try virtual options.
- Find your peace, take time for yourself.
- Maintain sleep patterns and schedules. The link between being well-rested and resisting illness is underestimated

### Preventative Health Tips

- Wear a mask if you are in public. Avoid contact with those that are sick and practice social distancing.
- Wash your hands often and don't touch your face.
- Disinfect all surfaces.
- Use drive through, pick-up or delivery services.

**Social Distancing Saves Lives**

**HURRICANE TERMS**

**WATCH vs. WARNING**

A warning means that conditions are expected. A watch means conditions are possible.

For a tropical storm the sustainable winds are 39-73 MPH.

For a hurricane the sustained winds are 74 MPH or higher.

**HURRICANE CATEGORY SUSTAINED WINDS**

- 1 SUSTAINED WINDS 74-95 MPH
- 2 SUSTAINED WINDS 96-110 MPH
- 3 SUSTAINED WINDS 111-129 MPH
- 4 SUSTAINED WINDS 130-156 MPH
- 5 SUSTAINED WINDS 157+

**STORM SURGE**

Storm surge is the abnormal rise in seawater level, above the normal predicted tide. It is caused by storm winds pushing water on shore and starts before a hurricane makes landfall. The danger is, it causes coastal flooding, making evacuation harder, and hurricane impact worse.

## Preparing or Procrastinating?

Preparedness plans often include emergency evacuation or sheltering in place. Seasonal residents may be used to hurricane season but we all learned from *Irma* that it is hard to anticipate unpredictable hurricane patterns, so expect the unexpected and plan accordingly.

Procrastinating is not a good idea, it limits options that may have otherwise been available, had there been more time to prepare. It is more likely that with the threat of an active hurricane season this year and the lingering global pandemic, supplies will be limited requiring more effort to prepare.

### QUICK TIPS

- Any style of hurricane shutter may be installed when a hurricane or tropical storm watch (48 hours prior) has been issued for our immediate area. Those shutters must be taken down promptly after the threat has passed.
- Hurricane shutters that have been approved, by application to the MCA, for the hurricane season, may be installed starting May 1 and remain so installed until November 30 or may be used for any part of that season.
- Know your risk. Learn what disasters might affect your area. Check to see if you are in a Hurricane Evacuation Zone or FEMA Flood Zone.
- Pick up loose objects and debris.
- Trim shrubs and trees to prevent damage.
- Stake your trees for extra support.
- Check your gutters/downspouts for drainage.

### BE PREPARED. HELPFUL RESOURCES.

Give yourself, your family and your community the gift of preparedness. Here are several resources to help you prepare for hurricane season.

**Prepare Your Home**  
<https://www.scgov.net/Home/Show-Document?id=40782>

**Storm Debris—What I Need To Know**  
<https://www.scgov.net/Home/Show-Document?id=40784>

**Disaster Planning For Domestic Pets**  
<https://www.scgov.net/Home/Show-Document?id=40778>

Never do  
tomorrow what  
you can do today.  
Procrastination is  
the thief of time.

*Charles Dickens*

**Sarasota County Evacuation Levels & Centers**  
<https://ags3.scgov.net/knowyourlevel/> &  
**Evacuation Guidelines** <https://www.scgov.net/Home/ShowDocument?id=40952>.



To sign up for MCA Constant Contact emails contact Rachel Watson at, [lifestyle@meadowscsca.com](mailto:lifestyle@meadowscsca.com) or use the quick link on the website

<http://www.themeadowssarasota.org> to be added to the list.



Pre-register for Alert Sarasota County's official notification system. This alert system replaced the previous CodeRed system. You will need to sign up again if you previously signed up for CodeRed. The alert system will attempt to contact users by landline, cellphone, text message, email or mobile app push notification, to inform them of various emergencies and community updates. Learn more at <https://www.alertsarasotacounty.com>