



**Policy Type:** Board

**Category:** Health Care

**Policy Name:** County Blood Donation Event Services - Board Policy 3.67

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### **3.67 COUNTY BLOOD DONATION EVENT SERVICES (Adopted 12-18-18)**

#### *Background*

The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued guidance on blood donor eligibility, including deferrals for potential donors who have recently undergone specified medical procedures or received certain vaccinations, have certain infections or illnesses, or who are taking specified prescribed medications. Included in this guidance is a deferral period of twelve months since last sexual contact for men who have had sex with another man (MSM). The 12-month deferral period is unnecessary and reinforces stigmas and misguided beliefs around sexual activity. The deferral applies categorically and excludes an entire population of men who could donate blood and advance the safe increase of the nation's donor pool, and does not take into account modern screening and diagnostic tools that can detect HIV infection as early as weeks after last exposure with a high degree of sensitivity, preventing the addition of blood infected with HIV or other pathogens into the donated blood supply.

#### *County-sponsored Blood Drives*

The Board of Supervisors supports the inclusion of all members of the community in the donation and collection of blood. While all blood



collectors in the United States are required to follow the rules and regulations issued by the FDA, County-sponsored blood drives (i.e., blood drives that receive County funding, or that occur on County-owned or -leased property) should engage blood donation services, where possible, that take actions to include and educate as many members of the community as possible within the current guidelines. Such actions may include:

- A. Accepting blood donations without an appointment, to avoid discouraging persons who are interested in donating but were unaware of a blood drive.
- B. Explaining the FDA MSM deferral policy in any marketing material that advertises an upcoming blood drive, and on the blood collection organization's website, including making clear that the FDA's prior lifetime ban on donation no longer exists.
- C. Providing information at blood drives to donors and potential donors relating to the MSM deferral period, and how donors and potential donors can contact their elected representatives and/or the FDA to voice any concerns they may have.
- D. Encouraging the participation of individuals who are affected by the MSM deferral period in education and outreach efforts, including volunteering for an event or bringing a friend who is eligible to donate to make a blood donation in their place.
- E. Hosting blood drives in conjunction with other community donation drives, including but not limited to clothing drives, bone marrow registries, volunteer events, and donation of other life-impacting services, to allow any person to participate regardless of health status or other factors.



## County of Santa Clara

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### Related Policies

None.

### Related Forms and Information

None.

### History

Date	Changes Made
3/13/2019	Policy Uploaded.
12/18/2018	Policy Adopted. <a href="#">View legislative file.</a>