

## Scott Memorial Hospital hosting Blood Drive on April 27 to Boost Red Cross Blood Supply

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The American Red Cross blood drive will be held at Scott Memorial Hospital on Monday, April 27. Scott Memorial Hospital began hosting blood drives after the 9-11 attacks in 2001.

Donations levels have a way of going down as the summer vacation center approaches, and the Red Cross tries to build supplies in advance of that drop.

If blood supplies drop, there is a risk that accident victims and other critically injured patients may not have enough blood. The Red Cross has enhanced their donor questionnaire and eligibility standards to speed the donor process. European travel restrictions have also been modified so that travelers who have been turned down in the past may now be eligible.

There have been other changes in the blood donor qualifications that make more people eligible. Those donor eligibility changes include:

- \* Donors who are taking antibiotics may donate immediately after the last dose if they are not symptomatic.

- \* Donors who have received chemotherapy may donate if they are treatment-free and symptom-free after five years.

- \* Donors who have minor injuries requiring stitches may donate two days after receiving stitches if there is no infection present.

- \* Donors who have had oral surgery requiring stitches may donate three days after receiving stitches if there is no infection present.

With just 38 percent of the population eligible to give blood, and just a fraction of those eligible actually donating, the American Red Cross is asking eligible blood donors to give blood more often. The average blood donor gives less than two times a year, yet anyone can donate every 56 days.

All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license, or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Eligible donors must be at least 17 years old, or 16 years old with a signed Red Cross parental/guardian consent form where state permits, must weigh at least 110 pounds and be in general good health.

The blood drive at Scott Memorial Hospital will take place on Monday, April 27, from 1 to 6 p.m. Scott Memorial Hospital is located at 1451 N. Gardner (Us Hwy 31 N.) in Scottsburg.