



Advancing Transfusion and
Cellular Therapies Worldwide

Statement by AABB CEO, Debra S. BenAvram, FASAE, CAE, on COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma (CCP):

As the world awaits a COVID-19 vaccine, millions of patients with COVID-19 need medical care right now—and the transfusion of COVID-19 convalescent plasma (CCP) is one of the best options we have at our disposal to help people recover. Early research shows that CCP is safe and promising enough to warrant additional studies to determine its full potential. AABB and our blood community partners have been leading the charge from the beginning to drive additional donations of CCP and we welcome the federal government’s assistance in this critical effort. AABB encourages *all* eligible COVID-19 survivors to find their nearest blood collection facility at www.aabb.org/giveblood and make an appointment to donate CCP as soon as possible.

AABB is proud to be a founding partner in the “The Fight Is In Us” campaign and we urge policymakers, additional private sector and philanthropic partners, and community leaders to use their platforms to increase CCP donations nationwide. CCP cannot be developed in a laboratory or created via artificial means; the only source is those who have recovered from COVID-19 providing this gift of hope and healing.

AABB urges Congress and other policymakers to continue dedicating funds to support CCP research. As additional efficacy data become available, AABB further encourages the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and other policymakers and payers to quickly adopt evidence-based policies that ensure patients with COVID-19 have access to CCP.

AABB is also proud to support our blood collection facilities across the country that have been indispensable in the fight against COVID-19. Since May, when the FDA authorized CCP as an investigational therapy, these facilities have collected more than 120,000 units of CCP donations and distributed those donations to hospitals treating patients with COVID-19. They have rapidly developed new collection and distribution protocols for CCP while also performing their usual heroic work to ensure the adequacy of the nation’s blood supply, which has reached critically low levels at various points during the pandemic. We owe these blood collection facilities—as well as the researchers, transfusion medicine specialists and clinicians working tirelessly to advance treatments for patients with COVID-19—our gratitude and appreciation.