Safety of Blood Donation

It is safe to donate blood, and we encourage healthy individuals to donate so that blood is available for those patients who need it. **These are some of the measures we are taking to keep staff and donors safe:**

1. Adopt measures for donors to maintain a recommended distance of 6 feet of separation between them and other donors and staff during their time in the center
2. Blood Centers are taking appointments only for donation and are staggering appointments to allow for separation
3. Blood Centers will text or phone you when it's your turn to donate and you'll be asked to wear a mask
4. Some Blood Centers take your temperature before you enter the facility.
5. Donors wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after donation. Staff wear gloves. Donor beds are disinfected between donors. Other hard surfaces are disinfected frequently.
6. Other measures used to donors and staff safe:
    i. Installing clear barriers at registration areas
    ii. Providing new, unused pens to each donor for the pre-screening questionnaire.
    iii. Disinfecting donor clipboards and chairs after every use.
7. Regularly and frequently disinfecting high touch surfaces, including:
    i. door handles, sink handles, chairs, tables, and other items in registration, interview rooms, donation, and refreshment areas.
    ii. Increased professional cleaning services
8. Donors are discouraged from bringing family members to the center and visitors are restricted to essential personnel/vendors.
9. In most blood centers, staff have their temperature taken before they begin work
10. Staff follow CDC recommended guidelines for use of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) which includes gloves and masks.
    i. Asking all donors/visitors upon entering if they have had close contact with someone diagnosed with or suspected of having Coronavirus within the last 14 days.
    ii. Asking all donors/visitors upon entering if they have been diagnosed or suspected of having Coronavirus within the last 14 days.
11. Snacks and drinks are limited to single packaged items.