

Today – Right now someone is donating blood.

When the blood drive is over this afternoon, the blood will be taken to the Northern California Community Blood Bank's Laboratory for processing. Tonight test tubes will be put on a plane and flown to a facility in Sacramento where 13 screening tests will be performed. In the morning results of those tests will be transmitted to the Blood Bank here in Eureka to verify the safety of the donation.

2 days

While those tubes are being tested, the blood donated will be separated into a variety of components based on patient need and donor blood type. Red Blood Cells, Platelets and Plasma the three main components are created within hours of the donation.

Plasma is a pale yellow mixture of water, proteins and salts. It is 90 percent water, makes up 55 percent of blood volume. It can be frozen and stored for as long as a year.

Red Cells carry oxygen to the body's organs and tissue. They last about 120 days in the human body and can be stored for 42 days after donation.

Platelets are by far the most needed component of our blood. They promote clotting and new therapies utilizing platelets are being researched all the time. They are also the most fragile. within 5 days platelets must be used or discarded.

On Monday February 20th President's Day, Red Cells and Plasma were delivered to St. Joseph's for a patient. Those components weren't created that day that blood wasn't donated that day. Those lifesaving components were on the shelf at the Northern California Community Blood Bank because on Wednesday, or Friday or Tuesday of the previous week someone in this community recognized that there *would be* a need, not that day and maybe not the next but they recognized that the time blood is needed is no time to start thinking about where it comes from.

15% of people who don't donate blood say it's because "they don't have time"

8,736 That's how many hours there are in a year. Donating blood, saving as many as 3 lives, takes an hour. Donate 4 times a year and you will still have 8,732 left to mow your lawn.

17% of individuals who have never donated site as a reason that they've "never thought about it" well, I'm here to ask please think out it

about it

John Gullam
Director Donor Resources
Northern California
Community Blood Bank