Effective Tuesday, September 8, the Community Blood Bank is able to accept certain individuals as blood donors who were previously deferred by Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines that regulate the blood industry.

The FDA announced the revised guidelines in April, but the CBB needed time to modify computer systems, write procedures and train our staff on how to implement these changes safely. Thank you for your patience.

ELIGIBLE TO DONATE IMMEDIATELY (NO DEFERRAL TIME):

- Individuals who were stationed with the military or lived on a base in Europe from 1980 to 1996; the previous deferral was because of risk of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD or mad cow disease).
- Individuals who lived in Europe for five years or more from 1980 to the present; the deferral was also because of risk of vCJD or mad cow disease.

See exceptions below:

- An indefinite deferral will remain for those who lived in Ireland or France for 5 years or more cumulatively in the period from 1980 to 2001.
- An indefinite deferral also remains for persons who lived in the United Kingdom for three months or more cumulatively in the period from 1980 to 1996.

DEFERRAL TIME REDUCED TO 3 MONTHS (PREVIOUSLY 12):

- If received a tattoo or piercing.
- If traveled to a malarial endemic area (as long as you were not a resident of a malarial endemic country).
- If any possible blood exposure including, but not limited to, needle stick exposure; blood transfusion; organ transplant; skin or bone graft.
- Male-male sexual contact.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR ELIGIBILITY, PLEASE CALL US AT 814-456-4206 OR EMAIL INFO@FOURHEARTS.ORG