Southeast Georgia Health System Hosts
American Red Cross Blood Drive

BRUNSWICK, Georgia: March 25, 2020 – The American Red Cross is experiencing a severe blood shortage due to an unprecedented number of blood drive cancellations in response to the coronavirus outbreak. Healthy individuals are needed now to donate to help patients counting on lifesaving blood.

Southeast Georgia Health System is hosting an American Red Cross blood drive on **Friday, March 27, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.**, in the Kemble Conference Room, 3011 Kemble Avenue, adjacent to the Brunswick Campus.

There is no data or evidence that the coronavirus can be transmitted by blood transfusion, and there have been no reported cases of transfusion transmission for any respiratory virus including this coronavirus worldwide.

The Red Cross has implemented new measures to ensure blood drives are safe for donors and staff, including:

- Checking the temperature of staff and donors before entering to make sure they are healthy
- Providing hand sanitizer for use before and throughout the donation process
- Spacing beds, where possible, to follow social distancing practices between blood donors
- Increasing enhanced disinfecting of surfaces and equipment

At each blood drive, Red Cross employees already follow thorough safety protocols to help prevent the spread of any type of infection, including:

- Wearing gloves and changing gloves with each donor
- Routinely wiping down donor-touched areas
- Using sterile collection sets for every donation
- Preparing the arm for donation with an aseptic scrub

Individuals can schedule an appointment to give blood by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, using the sponsor keyword: sghsys. Donors can also save up to 15 minutes at the blood drive by completing a RapidPass®. With RapidPass®, donors complete the pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of donation, from a mobile device or computer. To complete a RapidPass®, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Red Cross Blood Donor App.
ABOUT SOUTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM
Southeast Georgia Health System is a not-for-profit health system comprised of two acute care hospitals, two long term care facilities, two comprehensive Cancer Care Centers and multiple specialty care centers, including orthopaedic and spine care, joint replacement, breast care, maternity, outpatient rehabilitation, sleep management and wound care. The Brunswick Campus Cancer Care Center is accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer and offers the only CyberKnife® M6 with MLC technology in Georgia. Additionally, the Southeast Georgia Physician Associates medical group includes more than 140 providers working in 20 different medical specialties at more than 50 locations. The Health System is part of Coastal Community Health, a regional affiliation between Baptist Health and Southeast Georgia Health System forming a highly integrated hospital network focused on significant initiatives designed to enhance the quality and value of care provided to our contiguous communities. For more information, visit sghs.org.

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