

# INSIGHT

WTC COMMUNITY WEEKLY



*A big question during the pandemic:*

## IS IT SAFE TO DONATE BLOOD?

Jakland's Blood Drive  
WTC Conference Hall, November 2019

## YES! But...

Back in June, Head of Development for *Palang Merah Indonesia* (PMI, the Indonesian Red Cross) Dr. Lilis Wijaya said there was a worrying decline in blood stocks, especially the A and AB types, due to the coronavirus and PSBB. The nationwide drop varies, ranging from 10 to 20 percent. In a recent interview, the Jakarta branch of PMI even said they are experiencing 70 percent lower donations, struggling to meet the daily need of at least 1.000 blood bags.

Even when the world isn't in the midst of a global pandemic, the demand for blood products is constant. Which is why it's crucial for people to continue donating so there's an adequate supply to help those who need it.

But as we're transitioning in this extended first phase of 'new normal' era, understandably we wonder if that's safe enough to do. The answer, in principal, is YES.

WHO Team Leader for Blood and Other Human Products Yuyun Maryuningsih assured that blood donation is completely safe as long as it adheres to the strictest health protocols.

Staff must use face masks and medical hand gloves at all times, check for body temperature upon entering, provide hand sanitizers, space out beds, equipment and furniture to follow social distancing practice, make sure the area has good ventilation, and increase disinfection of all surfaces touched by staff and donors, including the trash cans.

Donors, on the other hand, must be in good health, use face masks, maintain physical distance, minimise speaking and fill out a tracking form.

The WTC complex also hosts regular blood drive a few times a year. So be sure to check out our **Instagram @wtc.jakarta** for more updates the next time you wish to donate.

**Yours trully,**  
the community editor