

Blood Drive Guidelines: A step-by-step approach

From: The National Khidmat-e-Khalq Office

Acknowledgement: Umar Ahmad, Brooklyn

NY To: All Qaideen

Vision: To aid local government agencies in their effort to collect blood from their communities in order to maintain a large and healthy reserve and supply it for necessary use by hospitals and other health care institutions.

Best Practices:

Work with the **Ahmadiyya Muslim Student Associations (AMSAs)** where they are functional to hold the Blood Drives in campuses.

Hold Blood Drives at the **Regional events/Large gatherings** e.g. Regional Ijtema, Regional Khuddam Days, etc

Getting Started

3-months before

- Your team should be led by the Khidmat-e-Khalq Nazim, and two more Khudaam to make phone calls to urge Jamaat members. Four khudaam should be available to help on site the day of the event.
- Identify a local, nonprofit, blood donation agency that would be willing to come to the mosque for less than 50 bags of blood. NY Blood center and INOVA are two examples for NY and MD/VA areas. Red cross normally demands a higher number of donors.
- To find your local Blood Center access the website: www.americasblood.org. From there you can do a quick search by location for your nearest blood center.
- It has been found from past experience that since most Mission Houses/Namaz Centers are too small a Mobile Collection Unit or Blood Bus is provided for the event. The bus is fully equipped like a small medical facility and has everything needed for the event. You will need to provide ample parking space for the bus, about three cars length of space.
- Once you have contacted an official from the agency you will then set up a date that is suitable. Set a date that gives you ample time to plan and “advertise” the event. For first time organizers a month and a half to two months is recommended.
- Identify previous donors from your majlis.
- Meet with your agency representative to discuss procedures and location for the drive. Accompany the representative on a tour of the site to check traffic flow, space requirements, restroom access, telephone service, etc.
- Try to organize the drive on a day when a big turn out is expected at the masjid.

Team Building

6 weeks before

- Local Qaid and Khidmat e khalq nazim should involve local president and lajna president
- Make a list of what you have to do to ensure a smooth-flowing blood drive.
- Notify Jamaat members of the upcoming blood drive and ask for their support.

- Carefully exclude all those members from Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Africa who have visited an area where Malaria is common. Blood donor has to wait 1 year (symptom free) after return from visiting these countries endemic malarial areas for a less than 6 months trip. 3 year wait (symptom free) after return from living more than 6 months in endemic malarial areas, or after any episode of malarial disease. Unfortunately, this can drop your numbers significantly.
- Get “commitments” from all members. Make Sign-Up sheets so that people feel committed to attend.

Two weeks before... Start Scheduling

- Make personal visits to organization members. Direct contact has proven the most effective strategy to getting a large turnout.
- As with every major event, you can assume a 20% cancellation rate. In theory, if you plan on having 50 donors, recruit 63 persons.
- Take advantage of materials available from the blood center. Most agencies can provide posters, brochures, sign-up cards, tent cards, news releases, scripts for radio public service announcements, text for proclamations, and videos for presentations.
- Schedule appointments for donors based on their stated time preference on pledge cards, but keep the schedule level, cutting back at meal breaks.
- The majority of donors you will get “from the outside”, will be walk-ins who see the Blood Bus and walk up to donate. Also asking people who are walking by to donate may help. Occasionally, up to 50% of the participants have been non-Jamaat members.
- Placing posters, banners, etc. may or may not work but should be used. Post them up a couple of days before the event. It is very unlikely that a person who sees the advertisement a month prior will schedule in advance for that day.

Day of drive

- The coordinator should be at the site about 60 minutes before the first scheduled appointment to greet the blood collection personnel and to handle any last-minute details.
- As the donors arrive, someone should be there to check off the donor's name on the appointment schedule.
- Assign someone to make reminder calls to scheduled donors who are not present at their scheduled appointments.
- Be active in requesting people walking by to donate. It never hurts to ask!
Let young atfal take a lead
- Thank all participants as they leave, whether or not they were able to give blood.
- A nice lunch for all donors would be greatly appreciated. And don't forget about the staff as well.

Day after drive

- Thank the donors. The donors who participated this time will probably donate in the future.
- Follow up with “no-shows.” Kindly ask why they did not come to donate. Maybe you can ease their fear for next year.
- File all of your notes and paperwork generated during the drive. They will be helpful when organizing another drive.
- Take down publicity signs and store for future use.
- Report the event to the National KK team. Photographs are highly desirable.

FAQs:

Q: Why should I donate blood?

A: The need for blood affects us all. Nine out of ten of us will need blood some time in our lives. And one out of every ten-hospital patients requires a transfusion. Although the average transfusion is three pints, some patients require more.

Q: Who may donate blood?

A: Donors must be at least 17 years, weigh at least 110 pounds and not have donated blood within the last 56 days. Generally 75 years is the maximum age if the person is in good health.

Q: Do I need official identification?

A: Yes, it is a government regulation. We are not allowed to take your blood donation without first seeing an official form of identification. It must show proof of age, your signature and / or your photo.

Q: What do I get in return for my blood donation?

A: Allah’s blessings!
All blood samples are checked for hepatitis, HIV and syphilis
You get a free mini-medical examination including a blood pressure check. You get an identification card showing your blood group

Q: Is there anything special I need to do before my donation?

A: Please be sure to eat at your regular mealtimes and drink plenty of fluids. We recommend that you do not take aspirin, or products containing aspirin, for at least 72 hours before your scheduled appointment.

Q: What will happen first?

A: You will be asked to provide some basic information such as your name, address, age, social security number and so on. You must also show us your ID. A medical history is taken and then a drop of blood is analyzed for hemoglobin content. Your pulse, blood pressure and temperature will also be checked.

Q: How long will it take to replenish the pint?

A: Your body replaces blood volume or plasma within 24 hours. Red cells need about four to eight weeks for complete replacement.

Q: How will I feel after the donation?

A: Most people feel great! Donors who know what to expect and have eaten regular meals before donating are usually fine. After donating, drink extra fluids for the next 48 hours.

Q: What happens to my blood after donating?

A: After donation, your blood will be tested for blood type, hepatitis, HIV (the AIDS virus), and syphilis. Then it can be used either for one patient or, after separation into components to help several patients.

Q. What if our Majlis does not have enough khuddam to hold the Blood Drive?

A. You can try to involve local communities outside Jamat to increase participation. You can reach out to other auxiliaries with jamat (Lajna, Ansar) to get the participation.

Q. Do individual donations count towards Khidmat-e-Khalq Trophy?

A. Yes. If the circumstances are such that you can not hold a blood drive than individual donations are highly encouraged.

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Action Requested:

Please give us your feedback so we can improve this document over time, Jazakummullah.

