

# PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION TO DONATE BLOOD

Your child's high school is sponsoring a blood drive with **University of California, Irvine Medical Center**. Your child's high school requires parent/guardian permission to donate blood. Your child must be at least **17 years** old in order to donate blood. Donors must bring photo identification with complete legal name and identification number.

Additionally, California law requires anyone under the age of 18 to have a parent's or legal guardian's permission to donate when their donation will be screened with an investigational (research) test.

Donating blood is a valuable educational experience and it saves lives! In addition to donating, students help organize and coordinate the blood drive. Blood donation gives people a sense of accomplishment and an opportunity to participate in a community service. Many people begin a life-long commitment to blood donation after donating at their high school.

Every blood donation collected is tested before it is released for use by a patient. Periodically, new tests may be added by Food and Drug Administration to the battery of tests typically run on donor specimens. Prior to FDA approval, tests are introduced in an investigational (research) format.

## **Whole Blood Donation:**

Blood is collected from a vein in the arm into a bag specially designed to store blood. Typically, each donated unit is separated into multiple components, most often Red Blood Cells and Plasma.

## **Potential Side Effects:**

There are rarely any serious complications to the donor. However, as in any medical procedure, there are certain risks involved. Potential side effects of whole blood donation include fainting, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, bruising or redness in the area of venipuncture and iron deficiency. More serious reactions may include seizures and, rarely, nerve injury in the area of the venipuncture. While a small proportion of blood donors have adverse reactions, donors aged 16 to 22 do experience a higher prevalence of reactions (about 5%). To lessen the likelihood of a reaction, the blood donor center evaluates eligibility for these donors based upon a health history and physical evaluation.

Donors should eat a healthy meal before donating and drink 16 ounces of water 10-30 minutes before donating

Please sign this form as permission for your son or daughter to donate blood and/or have their donation screened with an investigational (research) test. We invite all parents to join their children in donating blood for the community.

Parent/Legal Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Minor's name: (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Minor's Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank You very much for your support of our Community Blood Program.**

**Together We Can Make a Difference in Orange County!**