

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** Contact: Linda Blake
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**MEDIA ALERT**

**YMCA HOSTS BLOOD DRIVE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS**

**WASHINGTON – April 6, 2020 –** The YMCA of Metropolitan Washington (The Y), with branches and program centers in Washington, D.C., Maryland and northern Virginia has served the Washington area for over 168 years. In partnership with the American Red Cross, the Y will be hosting blood drives at YMCA Anthony Bowen and YMCA Fairfax County Reston.

The YMCA of Metropolitan Washington’s goal is to ensure that it meets the critical needs of the community with vital services during the COVID-19 crisis. The Y’s charitable services include childcare for emergency responders, virtual tennis, culinary and exercise classes, grocery distribution and welfare checks on seniors to make sure they are safe.

The dates and times for the blood drives are as follows:

Where: YMCA Anthony Bowen YMCA Fairfax County Reston

Conference Room 2 12186 Sunset Hills Road

1325 W Street, NW Reston, VA 20190

Washington DC 20009

When: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 Wednesday, April 15, 2020

8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

Monday, April 27, 2020

 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.

Potential Donors may sign up on line at www.redcrossblood.org and search by sponsor code "YMCA DMV" or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. A valid photo id is required. For any questions regarding eligibility call 1-866-236-3276.

Added precautions are in place to ensure the safety of all donors and staff which includes donor temperature checks before entering the drive, spacing beds 6 feet apart where possible, using aseptic scrubs on arms, using sterile collections sets, and wiping down donor-touched areas.

**About YMCA of Metropolitan Washington**
The YMCA of Metropolitan Washington is a non-profit charity organization that has been serving the communities and families of Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia in the areas of youth development, healthy living and social responsibility, for nearly 168 years. Through opportunities in wellness, aquatics, youth sports, summer camps, childcare and more, the Y engages more than 250,000 individuals and families. Visit [www.ymcadc.org](http://www.ymcadc.org) for more information.