

TecSalud and NL open plasma donation centers to fight against COVID-19



The **Nuevo León Ministry of Health** and [TecSalud](#) have joined forces to open **COVID-19 Plasma Donation Centers** to treat patients who are critically ill with this disease.

This will be performed through the **State Blood Transfusion Center**, in collaboration with **TecSalud's San José Hospital**.

"The objective of the centers is to provide an effective and standardized process that allows critically ill patients from Nuevo León to be treated with COVID-19 convalescent plasma."

"The safety of donors and recipients will be guaranteed at all times through supervision of the project by the Nuevo León Ministry of Health," said **Manuel de la O Cavazos**, Minister of Health for Nuevo León.



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This forms part of a clinical research **protocol** that has been followed in other countries as an option for treating critically ill patients.

The United States Food and Drug Administration ([FDA](#)) recently **authorized** the use of this **treatment** for patients suffering from **COVID-19**, as plasma can be effective against the virus.

In Mexico, [TecSalud](#) has submitted the **protocol** to the Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risk ([COFEPRIS](#)), which has been **approved**.

The treatment, which is also called “**convalescent serum**”, was initially used by **doctors in China** as one of the first treatments for the **novel coronavirus**.



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HOW IS PLASMA DONATION ACHIEVED?

After someone recovers from **COVID-19**, the body generates antibodies that protect it against the [SARS-CoV-2 virus](#). This makes that person a candidate to donate a part of their blood known as plasma.

Plasma is the **liquid part of blood** that remains when the **red blood cells, platelets and other components have been removed**.

The amount that is donated does not affect the donor's health and could potentially benefit **COVID-19** patients.

The extraction process is called "**plasmapheresis**" and it can be carried out at the **State Blood Transfusion Center** and/or at the **TecSalud COVID-19 Plasma Donation Center** located at the **San José Hospital**.

This plasma is subjected to **clinical analysis** processes to check that it is free of other infectious agents, and that it contains the required number of **antibodies**.

*"It is estimated that enough plasma will be obtained **from each donor** to **treat between one and two patients** who are currently fighting against COVID-19 and who have a poor prognosis,"* said **Servando Cardona**, director of Clinical Research at **TecSalud**.



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Fernando Castilleja, director of Well-being and Prevention at [TecSalud](#), said that with the opening of the COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma Donation Centers, all work will be carried out in coordination with the Nuevo León Ministry of Health for the benefit of the community.

“This will happen not only in medical care and hospital services, but by going beyond this, by developing research protocols that can give good results for ending the pandemic,” he said.

Regarding the **pilot research protocol using convalescent plasma** (extracted from recovered patients in order to help seriously ill patients), Dr. Castilleja states that plasma has already been administered to 5 patients for whom all other possible strategies had been used and whose prognosis was not good.

*“Of the **5 cases that we tested, 4 did very well,**”* he said.



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REQUIREMENTS TO BE A CONVALESCENT PLASMA DONOR:

- Have a previous diagnosis of COVID-19, documented by the RT-PCR test.
- Have a follow-up test that shows a negative result for COVID-19.
- Be asymptomatic for at least 14 days before donation.

In addition, people must:

- Be in good general health.
- Be between 18 and 65 years old.
- Weigh more than 52 kg
- Have no recent infections (except the COVID-19 infection).

Contact information for donors:

WhatsApp: (81) 8888 0775

Email: donadorcovid19@tecsalud.mx

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