

Hello this is John Gullam from the Northern California Community Blood Bank with a Community Comment on KINS.

We've all heard about Ebola and know that there is little cause for concern here on the North Coast. But what about Chagas, Chickungunya, Babesiosis, Human T-Lympho-tropic virus, bovine spongiform encephalo-pathy or Anaplasmosis? These are all diseases that we at the blood bank, along with our colleagues around the world, are keeping an eye on. Some we test for, for others we stay informed about the latest research to see if testing will be necessary. We work with ABC, FDA, AABB and a host of other acronyms to ensure the safety of the blood we collect, process and distribute. The nation's blood supply is now safer than it has ever been because of these efforts and because of generous, dedicated volunteer blood donors like those in our community.

Dr. German Leparc told the Florida Association of Blood Banks earlier this year about another growing threat that, though not new, seems to be increasing. This pathogen strikes the blood center rather than donors or patients, however. He called this emerging pathogen Bureau-cratis Federal-is and it's less severe but equally noteworthy Bureau-cratis State-is. He described it's symptoms as including paralysis, anxiety and depression. Like the other pathogens, this is something that we at the Blood Bank are going to great lengths to shield the public from and with diligence most people will never know the efforts we go to to maintain a safe and adequate blood supply for the patients we serve. This is what we do. Every day.

From Telephone Recruiters to Clinical Laboratory Scientists, the Northern California Community Blood Bank works seven days a week, round the clock. We do this to ensure that when you come to the Blood Center, or to a Blood Mobile, to donate Whole Blood or individual components by apheresis, not only will you have a safe and pleasant experience but your donation will be processed as efficiently as possible and that it will get to the right patient in a timely manner.

As important as our work is, though, the most important people in the process are, and always will be the donor and the patient.

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