

AIDS not expected to hinder blood drive

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Blood donations have decreased because of AIDS fears, but this week's SJSU drive will probably be a success, said Rhoda Burns of the Stanford University Blood Bank.

Donations at SJSU have not decreased since AIDS was publicized and the results of last spring's drive were outstanding, said Burns, supervisor of blood donor recruitment. In the spring, 447 people donated blood at SJSU.

Blood donations made at SJSU will be used at Stanford University Medical Center and the Children's Hospital at Stanford.

There is no risk of contracting AIDS by donating blood, Burns said. Yet, donations at the Stanford blood

bank have decreased about 10 percent, and all blood banks have noticed declines since AIDS was publicized, she said.

The demand for blood has not declined and most patients needing blood have not refused transfusions, Burns said.

Donors must fill out a form on their medical history. People in the high risk groups for AIDS will not be allowed to make donations, she said.

These groups are: anyone who has any symptom of AIDS, males who have had sex with another male since 1977, past or present abusers of intravenous drugs, Haitians who have entered the U.S. after 1977, patients with hemophilia and sexual partners of individuals in any of the above categories.

All blood will be tested for the AIDS antibody as required by law and any blood that tests positively will not be used, Burns said.

Blood donors must weigh at least 110 pounds, be from 17 to 65 years old and in good health. Donors need to bring identification. Burns warned against fasting before donating blood and said donations can be made five times per year, at eight-week intervals.

Extracting the blood takes six minutes, but entire procedure takes 45 minutes, from registration to resting and snacking on free cookies and orange juice.

Blood donors can establish a "credit account" at the blood bank. Donors can request that a specified person receive the same amount of

blood donated.

The SJSU Blood Drive will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., today until Friday in the Student Union Loma Prieta Room.

The SJSU Blood Drive is sponsored by the Stanford blood bank together with the Arnold Air Society. The co-sponsor is a subdivision of the Air Force ROTC. The Staffebach Squadron of the SJSU AFROTC will set up the blood drive equipment in the Student Union and donate blood on Thursday.

The society is a community service organization that has squadrons on 150 campuses.

The Stanford blood bank has held blood drives at SJSU for five years. The next blood drive at SJSU will take place the week of Dec. 2.