

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MILLER-KEYSTONE BLOOD CENTER ANNOUNCES CONVALESCENT PLASMA PROGRAM**

### ***Plasma From Recovered COVID-19 Patients Can Aid In Treatment Of Others***

LEHIGH VALLEY, PA – Miller-Keystone Blood Center (MKBC) is working with blood center partners across the nation on an experimental treatment referred to as Convalescent Plasma, which has the potential to be lifesaving for critically ill COVID-19 patients.

“When a person becomes ill with COVID-19, it can take time to develop the antibodies needed to combat the disease,” explains D. Kip Kuttner, D.O., Vice President & Medical Director, MKBC. “While some patients can become critically ill and require the assistance of a ventilator, 80% of those contracting COVID-19 do not become seriously ill. These patients recover and have now have the antibodies in their plasma.”

Dr. Kuttner continues, “By collecting this plasma and giving it to seriously ill patients, the hope is to provide a boost to the patient’s antibodies and help stimulate recovery. This is particularly important in patients who have a suppressed immune system.”

“To be eligible to donate convalescent plasma, the potential donor must be symptom-free of COVID-19 for 28 days or more,” adds Qiana Cressman, Executive Director of Donor Operations. “All general eligibility guidelines for blood donation must still be met, and the potential donor must pass all other screening tests and qualifications necessary for donating blood. The actual donation process will be the same as for a whole blood or automated plasma donation.”

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[GIVEaPINT.org](http://GIVEaPINT.org)

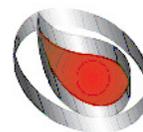


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- - Miller-Keystone Blood Center continued - -

If you or someone you know has recovered from COVID-19 and would be interested in donating for the Convalescent Plasma Program, visit [GIVEaPINT.org/covid-plasma](https://GIVEaPINT.org/covid-plasma) to complete the eligibility screening form. For additional information, contact Diane Wiest, RN, Senior Director of Risk Management, at 800-223-6667, ext. 1245 or [dwiest@giveapint.org](mailto:dwiest@giveapint.org).

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