

Your Blood. Their Hope.®



MILLER-KEYSTONE
BLOOD CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MILLER-KEYSTONE BLOOD CENTER ISSUES EMERGENCY
APPEAL FOR BLOOD DONORS**

LEHIGH VALLEY, PA - Miller-Keystone Blood Center (MKBC) has issued an appeal for available donors of all blood types, including platelet donors, to give blood; noting blood inventory levels are dangerously low. According to Marie Clemens, Corporate Director of Communications, the current need for blood is critical in order to supply 28 regional hospitals with necessary blood products to treat patients.

"At this moment, we have less than a one-day supply of blood on our shelves, which means that one accident or trauma could deplete our entire inventory. Our hospitals need blood products every day to treat accident and burn victims, cancer patients, premature infants, and many other patients right here in our community. We need all available blood donors to roll up their sleeves and help our community hospitals by donating their lifesaving blood," said Ms. Clemens, noting that without a full inventory of blood products, our regional hospitals may be asked to postpone elective surgeries.

As the pandemic has continued, Miller-Keystone Blood Center has noted a steady decline in blood donations and blood drives at schools, businesses, churches and other community organizations.

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"In the past, Miller-Keystone has been able to import blood products from other centers across the nation," explained Ms. Clemens. "That is not the case this year, as blood supplies across the United States are at a historically critical low. Blood is perishable and there is no substitute -- the only source is from volunteer blood donors."

In order to donate, individuals must be 16 years of age* or older, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be feeling healthy; they must not have donated in the past eight weeks, however platelet donors are eligible within 8 days of a donation. All donors must also provide valid identification. Masks are required at this time regardless of vaccination status, and donations are accepted by appointment only in order to accommodate current social distancing guidelines. Schedule your blood donation by calling 800-B-A-DONOR (223-6667) or visit GIVEaPINT.org.

** Parental consent required for 16-year-old donors.*

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