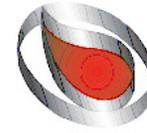


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**MILLER-KEYSTONE**  
**BLOOD CENTER**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**May 26, 2022**

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**MILLER-KEYSTONE BLOOD CENTER JOINS BLOOD EMERGENCY READINESS CORPS  
*Group Confirms Sending Blood Units To Texas In Response To School Shooting***

LEHIGH VALLEY, PA – Officials at Miller-Keystone Blood Center (MKBC) today announced they have joined the Blood Emergency Readiness Corps (BERC).

“BERC is a collaborative effort of 32 community blood centers across the country,” explains Rami Nemeh, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, MKBC. “The collaborative was founded in 2021 to meet immediate transfusion needs when faced with large-scale emergency situations that likely require blood transfusions.”

“These blood centers, including Miller-Keystone, are committed to collecting extra units of blood on a rotating schedule to create an available supply of blood for emergency needs,” he adds, noting that this week, MKBC is one of the collaborative’s “on-call” blood centers.

Mr. Nemeh confirms that BERC was activated yesterday morning to support the transfusion needs of healthcare facilities in Texas, following Tuesday’s school shooting in Uvalde, TX. As one of the on-call blood centers, MKBC has already shipped several units of blood to South Texas Blood and Tissue Center.

“MKBC has already sent several units of blood to support healthcare efforts in Texas, and we are prepared to ship as many additional units as may be needed over the next few days,” he states, adding that all eligible blood donors in the MKBC service region are encouraged to schedule an appointment to donate at this time.

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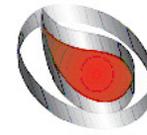
**GIVEaPINT.org**



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“Whether it be to support the transfusion needs of our regional hospitals, or to support the effort of other healthcare organizations across the United States, blood donations are in urgent need at this time,” he continues. “We are currently in the midst of the most critical national blood shortage that our country has ever faced. There is no substitute for blood – it can only come from the generosity of volunteer blood donors who roll up their sleeves to donate the gift of life.”

The most up-to-date list of eligibility guidelines to donate blood can be found on MKBC’s website at [GIVEaPINT.org](http://GIVEaPINT.org).

At this time, MKBC is operating on an appointment-only basis, and donors are asked to bring and wear a mask during their lifesaving donation. To schedule an appointment, call 800-B-A-DONOR (223-6667) or visit [GIVEaPINT.org](http://GIVEaPINT.org).

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#### About the Blood Emergency Readiness Corps

The Blood Emergency Readiness Corps (BERC), a collaborative effort of 30 community blood centers, was founded in 2021 to meet immediate transfusion needs when faced with large scale emergency situations that require blood transfusions. These blood centers commit to collecting extra units on a rotating “on call” schedule to create an available supply of blood for emergency needs.

#### About Miller-Keystone Blood Center

Established in 1971, Miller-Keystone Blood Center is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) community organization that currently serves as the exclusive blood provider to 29 hospitals in Eastern/Northeastern Pennsylvania and Western New Jersey. The blood services program comprises seven (7) donor centers supported by ten (10) satellite locations and over 1,500 bloodmobile site visits, and provides more than 100,000 transfusable blood products annually.

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