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MILLER-KEYSTONE
BLOOD CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MILLER-KEYSTONE ISSUES CRITICAL APPEAL FOR BLOOD DONORS OF ALL BLOOD TYPES

LEHIGH VALLEY, PA - Miller-Keystone Blood Center (MKBC) has issued an emergency appeal for available donors of all blood types, including platelet donors, to give blood noting that our community blood supply is currently at dangerously low levels. According to Marie Clemens, Corporate Director of Communications, the current need for blood is critical in order to supply 35 regional hospitals with necessary blood products to treat patients.

“We currently have less than a one-day supply of blood products on our shelves, which means that one accident or trauma could deplete our entire inventory,” said Ms. Clemens. “Our hospitals need blood products every day to treat accident and burn victims, cancer patients, premature infants, surgical patients, and many others right here in our community. We need all available blood donors to take an hour, roll up their sleeves, and help our community by donating their lifesaving blood,”

“Our goal is to have at least a three-day supply of blood products available for our community hospitals, which would equate to approximately 1200 units of blood” explains Rami Nemeh, Chief Operating Officer, confirming that at this time the Blood Center has a total of only 411 available units on its shelves.

“In the past, we were able to import blood products from other centers across the nation,” he adds. “That is not the case this year, as blood supplies across the United States are at a historically critical low.”

According to Mr. Nemeh, the community blood supply has yet to return to pre-pandemic inventory levels. “During the pandemic, school and business closures and remote work lead to a steady decline in blood donations and the hosting of blood drives,” he says. But as businesses returned to the office and schools went back into session, many were unable to host onsite bloodmobile drives.”

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These factors, combined with an expected summer decline due to school hiatuses, family vacations and increased travel, have forced the Blood Center to issue a critical appeal for donors.

“Blood is perishable and there is no substitute. It can only come from the generosity of volunteer blood donors,” Ms. Clemens states, adding that eligibility criteria for travel was recently revised and many individuals who were previously deferred from donating may now be eligible.

In order to donate blood, 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. Schedule your blood donation by calling 800-B-A-DONOR (223-6667), or visit GIVEaPINT.org to review eligibility criteria and schedule online.

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

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