

Critical Need For Blood Donors As Multiple Traumas Exhaust Blood Supply

By Qiana Cressman

LEHIGH VALLEY, PA - Miller-Keystone Blood Center's blood supply is rapidly depleting and at critical levels. All available blood donors, specifically O-positive and O-negative blood donors, are asked to call the blood center and donate as soon as they are able. Plasma and platelets are also urgently needed. The blood center will have emergency openings at the Bethlehem Donor Center on Sunday, September 27, 2020, beginning at 6:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

O-positive is the most common blood type and 1 in 3 people will need this type of blood transfusion. O-negative blood, the universal blood type, is used to treat patients in emergency situations when hospitals don't have time to determine an individual's blood type. With multiple trauma incidents occurring in the region and a nationwide blood shortage, the need for blood is in constant demand. There is no substitute for blood, the only source is from volunteer donors who provide this life-line to trauma victims, cancer patients for transfusions, premature babies and emergency surgi-

If you are new or considering donating blood, you must be 16 years of age* or older, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be feeling healthy; you must not have donated in the past eight weeks. All donors must also provide valid identification. (* - parental consent required for 16-year-old donors)

For more information or to schedule a donation, call 1-800-B-A-DONOR (223-6667). While donors can also visit GIVEaPINT.org to schedule an appointment online, donors are encouraged to call the Blood Center as special accommodations have been made to accept additional donors with the O positive and O negative blood type. Due to social distancing guidelines, we cannot accept walk in donors at this time. Appointments are necessary.

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New Hours Of Operation At Covid-19 Drive-through Testing Site

By Becky Bartlett

EASTON - Lamont McClure, the Department of Community and Economic Development, Emergency Management Services and Lehigh Valley Hospital-Coordinated Health Allentown Hospital (LVH-CHA) announce a new schedule for the drive-through testing center at 3100 Emrick Boulevard, Bethlehem Township which will begin on Monday, September 28, 2020. Hours of Operation will now be Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 10:00AM – 4:00PM, Tuesday/Thursday from 12:00PM – 6:00PM and Saturday from 9:00AM – 12:00PM.

"The virus is still active in our area and I encourage people to get tested for COVID-19 if they begin showing symptoms," says Lamont McClure. "Contact tracing, social distancing and wearing a mask are all critical to preventing transmission of the virus."

A Physician's order is not be required but, to be eligible for testing, individuals must report or display one or more CDC-recognized symptoms of COVID-19: fever, dry cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat or loss of taste and/or smell. The drive-through site is open to everyone, but only residents of Northampton County will have the cost of testing covered by the County if they do not have health coverage. All testing will be through HNL Lab Medicine unless insurance requires an alternate laboratory. Participants should bring a photo ID and their insurance card, if they have one, with them to the testing site.

Annual Conservation Celebration To Be Held At Lv Zoo On Oct. 4

By LV ZOO

(Schnecksville, Pa.) — Less Zoom. More Zoo! Lehigh Valley Zoo will be hosting its annual Conservation Celebration on Sunday, Oct. 4, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. with a VIP hour that begins at 3 p.m. The rain date for the event is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 11.

While many galas have become virtual events this year, this 'Not-Your-Average Gala' fundraiser has virtually everything. This unique lineup features family-friendly entertainment for zoo-lovers of all ages – with music, magic and comedy; and is highlighted by a performance by the award-winning band, Jimmy and the Parrots. A full lineup appears below.

In addition, attendees will be able to view the Zoo's popular residents afterhours, when many are most active; as well as the opportunity to attend a series of animal mingles and keeper chats. One-of-kind experiences and items will be offered via silent and live auctions throughout the night.

Ticket purchases include food, which will be provided by five local catering partners – Caribbean Island Cuisine, Geakers Tacos, Get Fed, Meyers Catering and Willow Street Catering – and soft drinks. Alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase.

Ticket prices for non-Zoo members are \$75 for adults and \$25 for children (ages 2-11). For Zoo members, prices are \$60 for adults and \$20 for children (ages 2-11). A limited quantity of VIP tickets are available for \$100, which includes early entry at 3 p.m. for an exclusive cocktail hour – featuring an open bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres – along with one giraffe-feeding ticket.

The Conservation Celebration is an annual fundraiser and this year's event will help the LV Zoo to #SustainOurMission as the zoo experienced a \$1.3 M loss in revenue during mandated closure from March 17 through June 30.

In an effort to promote social distancing and maintain safety, Conservation Celebration tickets are limited and must be purchased in advance. Masks are required at all times while in the Zoo unless at designated sampling stations or dining areas.

For more information, visit the Zoo's website at lvzoo.org/conservationcelebration.