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RedCrossBlood.org

Red Cross and country music star Martina McBride urge Americans to give comfort through blood donation

Suburban Propane is supporting the effort by offering blood donors a chance to win an Outdoor Living Experience, powered by Propane for those who give Nov. 15 through Dec. 15

UTICA, N.Y. (Nov. 16, 2020) —The American Red Cross and country music star Martina McBride have joined together this holiday season to remind people to take care of one another, sharing comfort and joy with hospitals patients through the gift of blood donation. Health emergencies don't pause for a pandemic or holiday celebrations. The Red Cross needs the help of blood donors across the country [now](#) to ensure patients continue to have access to lifesaving blood.

As the U.S. experiences a new surge in COVID-19 cases, the Red Cross is becoming increasingly concerned about the nation's blood supply – including convalescent plasma. A convalescent plasma donation collects plasma from COVID-19 survivors because antibodies to the disease in their blood may help patients who are currently fighting the virus. Increased hospitalization of patients with coronavirus this fall and winter has caused the Red Cross to distribute a record number of COVID-19 plasma products to hospitals treating patients who are battling the virus.

This holiday season, Martina McBride is reaching out to country music fans and all eligible individuals, "If nobody has ever asked you to give blood before, I'm asking you to give blood – especially during this trying time."

As a thank-you for helping meet the need for blood donations from **Nov.15 through Dec. 15, Suburban Propane is offering blood, platelet and plasma donors a chance to win an Outdoor Living Experience, powered by Propane**, to enable a lucky winner to enjoy socially distanced celebrations with family and friends this holiday season. The prize includes a propane-powered pizza oven, fire pit, outdoor heater and stipend towards propane.*

"Through our SuburbanCares initiative, giving back to our local communities is a top priority, and what better way to do that than to donate blood. Suburban is delighted to sponsor a Propane Experience Giveaway to help motivate more people to give the gift of life this holiday season," said Nandini Sankara, spokesperson for Suburban Propane.

Eligible individuals are urged to make an appointment to donate blood now to help patients in need. Find a donation opportunity using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

"Giving comfort to patients by providing lifesaving blood products is fundamental to the Red Cross mission. However, it's not possible without the support of generous blood donors and dedicated partners, like Martina McBride and Suburban Propane," said Paul Sullivan, senior vice president at the Red Cross. "While we have certainly experienced unparalleled hardships this year, we have also witnessed great acts of kindness – like COVID-19 survivors rolling up

their sleeves to share their antibodies with patients battling the illness. Donating blood, plasma or platelets is an act of kindness that truly makes a lifesaving difference.”

Lifesaving plasma brings joy and a second chance

Lacy Atkinson is a 37-year-old COVID-19 survivor, in part thanks to a stranger who rolled up their sleeves to donate convalescent plasma and help her body fight back. Atkinson’s life was turned upside down when she was hospitalized for COVID-19 in September. During her stay, infectious disease doctors tried multiple treatments to help her recover with limited success – but she just wasn’t getting better. “My oxygen levels were still low, and I had severe pneumonia in both my lungs,” Atkinson said.

Desperate to help her, doctors offered the one treatment they had left: convalescent plasma. Thankfully, this treatment helped her recover. “I felt such gratitude for the donor who helped me beat COVID. I have a husband, two kids and three dogs that I desperately wanted to get home to. I have a lot of life left to live! I’m so thankful that plasma was available when I needed it.”

COVID-19 antibody testing of blood donations

The Red Cross is testing all blood donations for COVID-19 antibodies which helps provide insight to donors concerning possible prior exposure to this virus. Donors can expect to receive the results of their antibody test within one to two weeks through our Red Cross Blood Donor App or on the donor portal at RedCrossBlood.org. As part of this effort, plasma from whole blood donations that test positive for COVID-19 antibodies may now help current coronavirus patients in need of convalescent plasma. Each week, whole blood donors with COVID-19 antibodies are helping to contribute between 350-500 units of potentially lifesaving convalescent plasma for patients in need.

The Red Cross is not administering diagnostic tests intended to diagnose illness. As such, to protect the health and safety of our staff and donors, it is important that individuals who do not feel well or believe they may be ill with COVID-19 postpone donation.

Blood donation safety precautions

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions – including temperature checks, social distancing and face coverings for donors and staff – have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive and are required to wear a face covering or mask while at the drive, in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Nov. 16-Dec. 15:

Delaware

Delhi

11/23/2020: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Delhi Alliance Church, 16178 NY 28

12/7/2020: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Delhi Alliance Church, 16178 NY 28

Sidney

12/4/2020: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., A.O. Fox Tri-Town Campus, 43 Pearl St West

Stamford

12/11/2020: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Stamford Baptist Church, 40 Lake Street

Walton

11/18/2020: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Walton O'Neil High School, 47-49 Stockton Ave

Herkimer

Dolgeville

11/16/2020: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Dolgeville Fire Department, 20 South Helmer Ave

12/7/2020: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Dolgeville Fire Department, 20 South Helmer Ave

Herkimer

11/16/2020: 1:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 127 Prospect Street

11/30/2020: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., ARC Herkimer, 350 S. Washington St.,

12/10/2020: 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Herkimer College Alumni Hall, 100 Reservoir Road

Ilion

11/18/2020: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., First Presbyterian Church of Ilion, 90 Morgan Street

Little Falls

12/7/2020: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Little Falls Elks Lodge, 60 Ann Street

Mohawk

12/8/2020: 12:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., American Legion Post 25 Mohawk, 43 West Main Street

Oneida

Barneveld

11/20/2020: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Town of Trenton Municipal Center, 8520 Old Poland Rd

Boonville

11/23/2020: 1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Harland J Hennessey Veterans of Foreign Wars, 108 Park Avenue

Clinton

11/25/2020: 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Clinton High School, 75 Chenango Avenue

12/5/2020: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m., Schilling Burns Young Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 959, 48 Franklin Ave.

New Hartford

11/21/2020: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church New Hartford, 630 French Rd

Rome

11/19/2020: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Mohawk Valley Community College, 1101 Floyd Ave

11/27/2020: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., St. John's Lutheran Church, 502 West Chestnut Street

12/4/2020: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., St. John's Lutheran Church, 502 West Chestnut Street

Sauquoit

12/2/2020: 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Sauquoit Valley High School, 2601 Oneida Street

Sherrill

11/17/2020: 12:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., American Legion Post 230 Sherrill, 168 E. Seneca St.

Utica

11/25/2020: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Oneida County Office Building, 800 Park Avenue

12/2/2020: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Mohawk Valley Community College, 1101 Sherman Dr

12/8/2020: 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Faxton St Luke's Health Care, 1656 Champlin Avenue, Box 479

Waterville

11/25/2020: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Waterville Village Hall, 122 Barton Avenue

Westmoreland

11/27/2020: 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Westmoreland Fire Department, 100 Station Rd

Whitesboro

12/4/2020: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Dunham Public Library, 76 Main St

Otsego

Cooperstown

11/17/2020: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Community Bible Chapel, 577 Greenough Road

Laurens

11/24/2020: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Laurens Fire Department, 34 Main St.

Morris

12/1/2020: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Zion Episcopal Church, 162 Main Street

Oneonta

11/17/2020: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Quality Inn, 5206 State Highway 23

11/20/2020: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Elm Park Methodist Church, 401 Chestnut St.

12/3/2020: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Southside Wesleyan Church, 5300 State Highway 23

Worcester

12/10/2020: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Worcester Municipal Building, 19 Katie Lane

About blood donation

All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to [donate blood](#). High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](https://www.redcrossblood.org/RapidPass) or use the Blood Donor App.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to

perform its mission. For more information, please visit [redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org) or [cruzrojaamericana.org](https://www.cruzrojaamericana.org), or visit us on Twitter at [@RedCross](https://twitter.com/RedCross).

[*See complete official rules and terms and conditions of the giveaway.](#)

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