



Greater Kalamazoo Area Chapter
*Serving the people of Allegan, Cass, Kalamazoo
 and St. Joseph Counties*
 5640 Venture Court, Kalamazoo, MI 49009
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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

FLU SHOTS NO BARRIER TO BLOOD DONATION

KALAMAZOO, MI, September 29, 2009 – As area residents prepare to protect themselves during this year's flu season by getting a flu shot, the American Red Cross wants to remind volunteer blood donors that they should experience few problems giving blood after receiving a flu shot, thanks to screening tests used by the Red Cross.

“A flu shot has no effects on the safety of a donor’s blood,” says Sharon Jaksa, chief executive officer of the Great Lakes Region of the American Red Cross. **“It is perfectly safe to donate blood after you get a flu shot, as long as you feel well on the day of donation and meet eligibility requirements.”**

The Red Cross uses blood screening tests that do not cross-react with the flu vaccine. However, some people do have non-specific symptoms such as a fever, headache or body aches soon after receiving a flu shot. Persons with those symptoms should defer their blood donation until they feel better.

The Greater Kalamazoo Area Chapter of the American Red Cross will host 46 public blood drives throughout its four-county service area in October. **Nine blood drives will be held on the Western Michigan University Campus for the annual Fall Blood Challenge against Central Michigan University. WMU blood drives are open to students, faculty, staff and the public.**

All eligible donors are urged to give blood October to help boost blood supplies as we approach the holiday season. Appointments may be made for many of the drives, please see the key below. The October schedule is as follows:

Kalamazoo County – October 2009

Thu., Oct. 1	10:15 am-4 pm	Greater Kalamazoo Board of Realtors, 5830 Venture Park, Oshtemo. *
Thu., Oct. 1	Noon-5:45 pm	“O” drive ARC Chapter House, 5640 Venture Court. Appt. only o
Fri., Oct. 2	10:15 am-4 pm	First United Methodist Church, 212 S. Park St., Kalamazoo
Sat., Oct. 3	10:30 am-4:15 pm	Texas Township Hall, 7110 West Q Avenue. *
Sat., Oct. 3	10:15 am-3 pm	Perry's Harley Davidson, 5331 South Sprinkle Road, Portage +
Mon., Oct. 5	Noon-5:45 pm	Gilmore Ctr./Health Ed., Health Care Plaza Appointment drive. *
Wed., Oct. 7	8 am-1:45 pm	Comstock High School, 2107 North 26th Street.
Wed., Oct. 7	Noon-5:45 pm	Portage Fire Station, 7830 Shaver Road +
Thu., Oct. 8	Noon-5:45 pm	ARC Chapter House, 5640 Venture Court. Appointments only o
Fri., Oct. 9	Noon-5:45 pm	Borgess Health/Fitness Center, 3025 Gull Rd. +
Fri., Oct. 9	10:15 am-4 pm	Kalamazoo Center for the Healing Arts, 6350 West KL Avenue, Oshtemo

Kalamazoo County continued:

Mon., Oct. 12	Noon-5:45 pm	Portage Community Center, 325 East Centre Ave. +
Mon., Oct. 12	11 am-4:45 pm	WMU: Bernhard Center, West Michigan Ave. in Textbook Alley WMU-CMU Challenge starts !
Tue., Oct. 13	11 am-4:45 pm	WMU: Miller Auditorium. *
Tue., Oct. 13	1:00-6:45 pm	Portage Central High School, 8135 S. Westnedge Ave.
Wed., Oct. 14	11 am-4:45 pm	WMU: Ernest Burnham Residence Hall *
Wed., Oct. 14	1:00-6:45 pm	H & R Block, 5222 South Westnedge Avenue.
Thu., Oct. 15	11 am-4:45 pm	WMU Schneider Hall Study Lounge *
Thu., Oct. 15	10:15 am-4 pm	Ross Medical Education, 6235 South Westnedge Ave., Portage. +
Fri., Oct. 16	11 am-4:45 pm	WMU: Henry Residence Hall *
Sat., Oct. 17	10:15 am-4 pm	Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1515 Helen Street, Portage +
Mon., Oct. 19	Noon-5:45 pm	Westwood United Methodist Church, 538 Nichols Road +
Mon., Oct. 19	11 am-4:45 pm	St. Thomas More Student Parish, 421 Monroe Street. *
Tue., Oct. 20	11 am-4:45 pm	WMU: College of Health & Human Services, 1240 Oakland Drive.
Wed., Oct. 21	11 am-4:45 pm	WMU: Bernhard Center Ballroom. *
Thu., Oct. 22	Noon-5:45 pm	ARC Chapter House, 5640 Venture Court. o
Thu., Oct. 22	11 am-4:45 pm	WMU: Student Recreation Center *
Fri., Oct. 23	11 am-4:45 pm	WMU: Garneau Harvey Residence Hall
Mon., Oct. 26	Noon-5:45 pm	Plumbers/Pipefitters Local #357, 11847 Shaver Rd, Schoolcraft +
Tue., Oct. 27	10:15 am-4 pm	Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce, 346 West Michigan Avenue
Tue., Oct. 27	2:00-8:45 pm	Borgess Health Alliance 1701 Gull Rd. +
Wed., Oct. 28	10:30 am-4:15 pm	Oshtemo Township Hall, 7275 West Main Street. +
Wed., Oct. 28	1:00-6:45 pm	Richland Presbyterian Church, 8047 Church Street, Richland.
Thu., Oct. 29	10:15 am-4 pm	Kalamazoo Valley Community College, 6767 West O Ave. Room 4240 *

* = appointments on e-donor: www.givelife.org;

+ = appointments; call 1-800-448-3543

o = appointments only; call ARC chapter @ 353-6180, ext. 0

Allegan County – Oct. 2009

Tue., Oct. 6	Noon-5:45 pm	Church of God, 112 Kalamazoo Street, Otsego
Tue., Oct. 6	Noon-5:45 pm	Douglas Community Church, 6780 Wiley Rd., Douglas
Wed., Oct. 14	9 am-2:45 pm	Martin High School, 516 118th Avenue, Martin.
Tue., Oct. 20	12:30-6:15 pm	Martin United Methodist Church, 969 E. Allegan St., Martin
Wed., Oct. 21	11:30 am-5:15 pm	Allegan General Hospital, 555 Linn Street, Allegan. For an appointment, please call 686-4231 or online at www.givelife.org
Thu., Oct. 22	Noon-5:45 pm	Plainwell Community Center, 798 East Bridge Street, Plainwell

Cass County – Oct. 2009

Wed., Oct. 26	11:00-4:45	SW Michigan Comm. College, 58900 Cherry Grove Rd, Dowagiac +
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St. Joseph County – Oct. 2009

Fri., Oct. 2	Noon-5:45 pm	Mendon United Methodist Church, 320 West Main Street, Mendon. +
Tue., Oct. 6	11 am-4:45 pm	St. Joseph County ISD, 62445 Shimmel Road, Centerville +
Mon., Oct. 12	Noon-5:45 pm	Sturgis Wesleyan Church, 907 North Nottawa. ~
Wed., Oct. 21	11:30 am-5:15 pm	JoCo Center, 805 Wood Street, Three Rivers. + no appts. first 3 hours.
Fri., Oct. 23	Noon-5:45 pm	Pioneer Hi-Bred Intl., Inc., 1365 South Washington Street, Constantine. + No appts. first three hours

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