



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Mario R. Mattera

Senator Mattera Sponsoring Blood Drive At Smith Haven Mall

MARIO R. MATTERA March 30, 2021

| ISSUE: **BLOOD DONATION, NEW YORK BLOOD CENTER, PUBLIC HEALTH, SMITH HAVEN MALL**



With our region currently in an emergency blood shortage due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, the need for blood donations has hit a critical level. To assist the **New York Blood Center** increase their blood supply, Senator Mario R. Mattera (2nd Senate District) is sponsoring a blood drive on **Thursday, April 8th**, at the **Smith Haven Mall**. The event will take place from noon to 6:00 p.m. at the mall's Center Court.

With nearly 2,000 donations needed every day in New York and New Jersey alone, the ongoing shortage has the potential to have a real effect on those who need blood transfusions. Every single donation can save up to three lives.

Those most in need of blood include cancer patients, accident, burn, or trauma victims, newborn babies as well as mothers delivering babies, transplant recipients, surgery patients, chronically transfused patients suffering from sickle cell disease or thalassemia, and many more.

Potential donors are required to meet the following criteria for their own safety:

- Bring NYBC Blood Donor Card or ID with signature or photo.
- Minimum weight 110 lbs. or more.
- Eligible ages are 16 to 75. Anyone donating who is 16 years old must have parental permission and anyone who is age 76 and over is required to supply a doctor's note.
- No tattoos for past 3 months

All donors will receive a special New York Mets t-shirt as well as be entered into a sweepstakes for a Family of 6 Pack of Tickets to a 2021 Game!

While NYBC prefers appointments to ensure minimal wait times for donors and to provide safe social distancing, walk-ins are welcome as long they can be accommodated safely. The entire donation process takes less than an hour.

To schedule an appointment or for more information, residents can [click here](#) or call the NYBC at 800-933-2566.

Donors with O-negative blood type, or “universal donors,” are especially encouraged to donate, as their blood is essential in emergency situations. Any potential donor with questions concerning medical eligibility is asked to call 1-800-688-0900.

It is recommended that those donating eat well and drink plenty of fluids prior to their appointment.

“Due to the ongoing crisis, it is crucial that we all join together to help the New York Blood Center replenish their supply. Our community has always been so giving and it is our hope that all eligible donors will join us at the Smith Haven Mall to help our community,” stated Senator Mattera. “Thank you in advance to all who participate.”