



Community Update

from your friends at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center

July 2022

Community Calendar and Education Information

COVID-19 Community Partners calls:

Discussion from hospital staff on topics relevant to the hospital's preparation and readiness.

Friday, July 8, 15, 22 and 29 at 11 a.m.

Dial in: (888) 651-5908 - Participant code: 3569812

For more details, contact Kimberly at 410-550-1118.

American Red Cross Blood Drives in your community:

July 27 from 1 to 6:30 p.m.

Dundalk American Legion, Post 38,
3300 Dundalk Avenue

To schedule an appointment, go to [redcrossblood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org).

Postpartum Support Group

Thursdays from 11 a.m. to noon

A free, virtual support group for moms with new babies.

For more information, or to receive a Zoom link for the support group, email sdaly9@jh.edu.

Virtual Club Memory

A stigma-free social group for people with early-stage Alzheimer's disease, mild cognitive impairments or other forms of dementia, and their caregivers.

3rd Tuesday monthly, from noon to 1 p.m.

Next meeting: July 19

<https://jhjhm.zoom.us/j/91808133747>

For more information, email anelso18@jhmi.edu.

Breast Cancer Support Group

For those in inactive or post-treatment. The program offers guest speakers an opportunity to share one's experience, compassion and support. Attendees are welcome to bring a family member or friend.

Fourth Thursday monthly, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Francis Scott Key Pavilion, inside the Medicine Education Center.

Call 410-550-6690 to register, or for more information.

American Red Cross Blood Donor Updates

What's New?

In recent months, COVID-19 has surged to new heights and overwhelmed hospitals with critically ill patients battling the virus. The recent surge, combined with new clinical trial data, indicate patients who are immunocompromised may benefit from convalescent plasma. This has led some of our hospital partners to once again request COVID-19 convalescent plasma.

On March 7, the American Red Cross resumed testing of all donations for COVID-19 antibodies for a limited time to identify potential units that can be manufactured into convalescent plasma.

Additionally, they hope that by providing this testing for COVID-19 antibodies, they may provide our valued donors insight into their own COVID-19 antibody status.

What you need to know about the COVID-19 antibody testing:

- Donors need to have a completed donation to receive the COVID-19 antibody test results.
- Donors can get their results of the antibody test by logging in to their Blood Donor account on the Blood Donor App or online within one to two weeks after their donation.
- The American Red Cross is not testing donors to diagnose illness. An antibody test assesses whether your immune system has responded to the COVID-19 infection or vaccination, not if the virus is currently present.
- Test results will indicate if COVID-19 antibodies are detected, and further, if the level of antibodies is high enough to meet U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requirements for production of convalescent plasma. A blood donor may see a Reactive or Reactive+ status when antibodies are detected, with Reactive+ indicating a high level of COVID-19 antibodies to meet FDA requirements for convalescent plasma. Results are not indicative of an individual's potential immunity against any given variant of the virus.
- Like other blood donation screenings, antibody testing is part of the blood donation testing process which occurs at no charge to the donor.

COVID-19 has challenged us all in unique ways, and has also reinforced the value of the roles we each play to care for our local communities. Your efforts to continue to support the American Red Cross' blood services mission remain critical in helping to save lives.

THREAD: Connecting with Johns Hopkins Bayview to Build a New Social Fabric in the Community

Giving time and service to help others can be fulfilling and produce positive results, especially within diverse, disconnected neighborhoods. Thread, a Baltimore-based, non-profit organization, is on a mission to do just that, and they need your support!

Founded in 2004 by Sarah and Ryan Hemminger, Thread is seeking volunteers to help combat social isolation and build connections across lines of difference with Baltimore City youth who academically rank in the lowest 25 percent of their class and face additional challenges outside of the classroom.

As part of the engagement process, Thread commits to support young people for a period of 10 years and pairs ninth grade students with an extended family of volunteers who provide tailored support to meet their needs — rides to school, weekend dinners, help navigating the transition to adulthood and so much more. Community collaborators help, too, by providing tutoring, employment opportunities, legal guidance, health care, housing and other services.

“Many people think that Thread is a mentoring program, which is only a small part of what we do,” says Sarah Hemminger. “We are really building a broader social movement to combat social isolation. To do that, we connect people who are very different from each other to build transformative relationships that change everyone's trajectory.” What began as two volunteers working with 15 students at one high school, has grown into more than 3,000 volunteers and collaborators working with 655 students and alumni from six Baltimore City high schools.

With the community's support, Thread participants consistently defy the odds. Within the first six years of enrollment, 79 percent of Thread students graduate from high school, 100 percent remain in the program for the full 10 years, and of these, 62 percent complete a post-secondary program.

One of Thread's newest school sites is in the Medical Center's own backyard — Patterson High School. Volunteering with Thread offers an excellent opportunity to build meaningful relationships and engage youth in the community — a win-win for everyone involved!

Thread is committed to weaving a new social fabric and building a more equitable culture in which everyone thrives. To get involved and learn more about volunteer opportunities, visit thread.org or contact the Thread team via email at info@thread.org.

Get FRESH!

Food Re-education for Elementary School Health (FRESH) teaches elementary school children heart healthy nutrition and exercise habits. This summer, staff are available to provide instruction at summer camps, day care centers, vacation bible schools and other summer programs. Topics include heart health, My Plate, healthy snacks and the importance of exercise.

For more information, or to schedule a FRESH instructor, call 410-550-6958 or email ameise1@jhmi.edu.

Testing Baby's Hearing

Most infants are screened for hearing loss before they leave the hospital. This helps to detect any hearing problems early and start treatment. Children with hearing loss who get help early develop better language skills than those who do not.

If your baby's hearing is not treated at the hospital, it should be checked by the time they are one month old. Two tests can be used to check your baby's hearing:

- **Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE)** – This test measures whether parts of the ear respond to sound. A soft earphone placed in the baby's ear plays sounds and measures an “echo” response that occurs in ears with normal hearing.
- **Auditory Brain Stem Response (ABR)** – This test measures the hearing nerve's response to sound. The baby will wear earphones and have electrodes placed on his or her head. The electrodes are painless and are put on and removed like stickers.

If the screening shows possible hearing loss, the baby will be referred to a pediatric audiologist who specializes in testing and treatment of children with hearing loss. Ideally, an appointment should be made for the child at 2 to 3 months old.

If your child has hearing loss, various tools can help. These include hearing aids, cochlear implants and communication approaches.

To learn more, contact your pediatrician at Johns Hopkins Bayview's Children's Medical Practice at 410-550-0967.