



ANTELOPE VALLEY
HOSPITAL
A facility of Antelope Valley Healthcare District

MEDIA ALERT

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URGENT TYPE O BLOOD SHORTAGE AT ANTELOPE VALLEY HOSPITAL

(LANCASTER, CA – February 1, 2008) — Antelope Valley Hospital is in urgent need of blood donors who have Type O-Positive or O-Negative blood. The hospital is quickly moving to a crisis situation, but is urging local community members to help by donating blood this week at the AV Hospital Blood Donor Center. It only takes an hour and will make a huge impact on someone's life.

Blood donations tend to decrease across the nation during the winter months. This year, because of extreme weather across the country and the beginning of flu season, blood donations have been *critically* low. AVH has even had a difficult time purchasing blood from backup blood suppliers to supplement the lack of donations. This is why AVH is requesting the community to come in and donate blood this week.

“While blood levels are down, the need for blood continues to increase. Traumas, emergency surgeries, and a very full Emergency Room have all contributed to the depletion of our limited blood supply,” explained Edward Mirzabegian, AVH Chief Executive Officer. “Please help to reverse this crisis situation. Your blood donation at the Antelope Valley Hospital Blood Donor Center will stay in the Antelope Valley – so you could be saving the life of a friend, neighbor or family member.”

The **AVH Blood Donor Center is located at 1600 West Avenue J in Lancaster, California**, next to the lab in the Outpatient Services Lobby. Donors can

(-more-)

AVH / URGENT Type O Blood Shortage

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call to make an appointment or walk in during the Center's operating hours, which are **Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the first and third Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. (which includes tomorrow, Saturday, February 2).** All donors receive a free cholesterol test and the knowledge that they helped save someone's life! Please call the **Blood Donor Center at (661) 949-5622** and help us during this urgent need for blood.

About Antelope Valley Hospital

Celebrating more than 50 years of caring for the community, Antelope Valley Hospital, a facility of Antelope Valley Healthcare District, is a non-profit, 420-bed hospital that was founded in 1955. The hospital is dedicated to providing quality care and services to everyone in the Antelope Valley. AV Hospital is located at 1600 West Avenue J in Lancaster, California. For further information, please visit www.avhospital.org or call (661) 949-5000.

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