



**Rock River Valley Blood Center, Illinois Coalition of Community Blood Centers
and State Officials Team Up to Reach Blood Donors and
Announce Body Art Code Implementation**

Rock River Valley Blood Center, along with other members of the Illinois Coalition of Community Blood Centers and state lawmakers have announced that the Illinois Department of Public Health, in conjunction with local health departments, is registering and inspecting tattoo and body piercing establishments across the state. This is great news for community blood centers. RRVBC will no longer have to defer donors with recent tattoos or piercings. Because of national accreditation standards, Illinois blood centers were forced to defer donors with a tattoo or body piercing for a period of 12 months because body art establishments in Illinois were not state regulated. “Now if you have received a tattoo or body piercing in Illinois after January 1, 2010, you are not going to be deferred. That means anyone receiving a tattoo or body piercing can donate blood,” said Jennifer Bowman, PR and Marketing Manager at RRVBC. For a complete list of which states have tattoo regulations please visit www.rrvbc.org.

Sen. Ed Maloney (D-Chicago) and Rep. Patti Bellock (R-Hinsdale) worked for the successful passage of the Tattoo and Body Piercing Establishment Registration Act, which is now being implemented under the Illinois Department of Public Health’s newly created Body Art Division.

“I am happy to see the Tattoo and Body Piercing Establishment Act finally fully implemented,” said Rep. Bellock. “This makes good public health policy not only for the blood centers but for anyone receiving a tattoo or body piercing. Without such regulation there was no uniform inspection and sanitation requirements for body art establishments throughout Illinois.”

“Because of the increased popularity of tattoos, especially among their student donor base, it was estimated that without this law, blood centers across the state were losing nearly 150 donations a day,” explained Senator Maloney. “I would like to commend the Department of Public Health for working with many of the local community health departments in getting this important measure implemented.”

The Illinois Coalition of Community Blood Centers is statewide association made up of not-for-profit blood centers whose mission is to increase awareness of the importance of volunteer blood donation through public education and advocacy. Members include Rock River Valley Blood Center, Central Illinois Community Blood Center, Community Blood Services, Heartland Blood Services, LifeSource Blood Services and Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center.

The Rock River Valley Blood Center serves as a centralized, community blood center and is the only provider of blood products and services to Beloit Memorial Hospital, Edgerton Hospital and Health Services, FHN, Mercy Harvard Hospital, OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center, Rochelle Community Hospital, Rockford Health System, SwedishAmerican Health System and SwedishAmerican Medical Center—Belvidere.

Rock River Valley

BLOOD CENTER

Straight From the Heart



For more information or to make an appointment to donate blood, please call toll free 877-RRVBC-99 or find RRVBC on the web at www.rrvbc.org.

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