



February 4th, 2015

Dear Parent, Dear Student, Dear Teacher,

Canadian Blood Services is honoured to partner with Claremont Secondary School to look at our young generation to help us save lives through blood donation AND registering as potential stem cell donors.

We will hold a **blood drive at Claremont on March 3rd from 9:30 to 2:30pm**. At the same time, we will educate and offer the students to participate and register in OneMatch: which means, doing a **cheek swabs and signing up as a potential stem cell donor**.

Stem cell donors can help patients with possibly life-threatening illnesses such as cancer, leukemia or lymphoma, to return to healthy lives with their loved ones. 75% of all patients rely on the generosity of unrelated and anonymous donors for lifesaving stem cells donation. It is **THE OneMatch** that can save that recipients' life. At any given time, nearly 1,000 Canadian patients are looking for a match. Research indicates that stem cells from younger donors provide patients with a better quality of life post-transplant.

Currently more than 340,000 Canadians have joined OneMatch and Claremont Secondary school is hosting a swab event to educate and register more potential stem cell donors to increase every patient's chance of finding a match.

There is a possibility that your son/daughter may register at a swab event organized at school. **The age criteria to register, is 17-35 years of age, preferred males.** We encourage all registrants to have a conversation with parents/legal guardians regarding their decision to join OneMatch Stem Cell and Marrow Network. We need to ensure that all potential donors that register are fully committed to the program and are supported by their families in making that decision.

How it Works

All it takes is ten minutes to fill in a general health questionnaire, a simple swab of the cheek and a willingness to donate to any patient in need. This information is then safely and securely transferred to OneMatch, to be entered into our donor database.

Protection of Personal Information

Canadian Blood Services is committed to protecting the privacy and security of the personal information of OneMatch registrants. We do so by following relevant laws and best practices. Canadian Blood Services will always refer to a registrant within the OneMatch registry by a unique identifier donor number when disclosing information to transplant centre health care providers and/or an international registry.

What it means to donate

Not everyone who registers with OneMatch will be matched to a patient and asked to donate, but each registrant provides hope for those waiting. A person could, however, be a match within a few months of registering, a year later or even seven years later. That's why it's important to understand what's involved – and the commitment – before registering.

When selected as a potential match for a patient, OneMatch will contact the registrant to inquire if they are still willing and able to proceed with the donation. Additional health testing will then be performed to ensure the suitability of the match.

If all is positive and you would be that OneMatch, unique donor, the procedure will be booked at a hospital and there are two methods a registrant could be asked to donate; from the peripheral blood (85%) or from the bone marrow (15%). These lifesaving stem cells are transferred to the recipient/patient to restore their health. To find out more about these procedures please visit www.onematch.ca

Why students?

Patients need young stem cell donors to return to leading normal, healthy lives. Stem cells from donors between 17 – 35 years old can provide a better outcome and higher quality of life for patients post-transplant. Donors and patients are matched genetically, and the markers used for this match occur with different frequencies in different communities. For this reason, a person's best chance of finding a matching donor is with a donor of similar ancestry. Young donors from as many diverse communities as possible are needed to enhance the OneMatch Network with a broad representation that reflects the needs of all patients in Canada. Today, 72% of OneMatch registrants are Caucasian, and only 28% are ethnically diverse. Students have an opportunity to change the lives of patients and their loved ones by becoming stem cell donors.

We need your help

The success of OneMatch relies on the support of communities and people like you and your child(ren). Every time someone joins the OneMatch registry, they provide hope to each patient in need of their one match. Help give hope to our patients today.

We encourage you to visit our website www.onematch.ca for more information about OneMatch and what's involved in making a stem cell donation so that this can be discussed as a family prior to the event.

Thank you for your support!

Ann Chabert,

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