



'Tis the Giving Season

Help save a life this December. Sign up today to **donate blood on Wednesday, December 15** during the year's final blood drive at EVMS Lester Hall. Blood donation appointments are available from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Each donor will receive a \$10 Amazon gift card.

Schedule your appointment in the following ways:

- Call (800) 733-2767 to reserve your time.
- Visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter CHKD as the sponsor to book your time online.
- Email your preferred appointment time to Brenda.Rohrer@CHKD.org.
- Download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App.



Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy

A recent Kaiser Family Foundation survey showed that the majority of parents/guardians have varying degrees of hesitancy in getting the COVID-19 vaccine for children younger than 12 years and will wait or likely never get it.

In this commentary, [Dr. John Harrington](#) shares information to help practitioners address parents/guardians who are hesitant about the COVID-19 vaccine for children.

[Read more](#)

Virginia Mental Health Access Program



With the recent declaration of a national emergency in children's mental health and the growing demand for mental health services in Hampton Roads, CHKD is keenly aware of the shortage of mental health professionals and the impact on children, families, and providers. To support our mission of health, healing, and hope for all children, we have partnered with the Virginia Mental Health Access Program (VMAP) to increase access to child and adolescent psychiatry consultation and provide a licensed mental health professional for

behavioral support and education and a care navigator to support your patients and their families in need of care.

Through consultation, education, and care navigation, VMAP supports an integrated behavioral health model by providing this support directly to pediatricians managing mental health concerns for their patients while supporting connection to community resources when appropriate. As a PCP in the eastern region, you have same-day access to a team of CHKD child and adolescent psychiatrists who can provide case consultation, a CHKD licensed mental health professional, a care navigator, and year-round education/training opportunities.

[Click here](#) to access the program and register as a provider if you have not already done so, or call 1-888-371-8627 to speak to a member of our team.

New Employee Referral Program

CHKD recognizes the importance of recruiting the best and brightest to provide our patients and families with the highest quality of care. Filling vacant positions is a high priority, and accordingly, a referral bonus may be granted to CHKDHS employees who refer a hired applicant.

The process is easy. Refer CHKD to people you know, have them put your name down when they apply, and if they get hired, you get a bonus check.

Help people discover all that CHKD has to offer. [Learn more about the employee referral program.](#)

Testing Options for COVID-19

The CHKD molecular diagnostics laboratory has an update on COVID testing currently offered:

- **4plex-PCR:** This assay detects SARS-CoV-2, Flu A, Flu B, and/or RSV. This is the preferred test for asymptomatic preprocedural screening and admissions and community use as a limited respiratory panel as we are now in flu and (have been in) RSV season. *Turn around time is 2 hours for urgent requests and 24 hours for routine requests.*
- **RP2-PCR:** Comprehensive 22 target respiratory viral panel for use with symptomatic patients. Expanded pathogens include 21 common respiratory pathogens and SARS-CoV-2. *Turn-around time is 2 hours for urgent requests and 24 hours for routine requests.*
- **SARS-CoV-2 PCR- tests for SARS-CoV-2 alone:** These tests are reserved mainly for Urgent Care use. There will continue to be a 2 run (188 test) daily maximum due to instrumentation and staffing limitations. *Turn-around time is 24 to 48 hours from receipt in the laboratory.* Runs will be set up each morning. **Please ensure the specimen is in the lab by 7 a.m. to ensure it will be added to the runs for the day.**



Information Services has built an algorithm in Power Chart to assist community providers with selecting the appropriate assay. If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact (757) 668-7267.

Welcome to the CHKD Family!



[Margaret Shaffer, PA-C](#), has a long history with CHKD that began when she volunteered in high school. After graduating from the University of Virginia and spending some time in Alaska, Shaffer became a nursing care partner at CHKD before enrolling in Eastern Virginia Medical School's physician assistant program. She then determined her specialty during her rotations with the plastic surgery team at CHKD.

When not working, Shaffer loves running, traveling, and spending time at the beach with her husband and two dogs.

Practice: [Plastic and Oral Maxillofacial Surgery](#).

[Thomas Henry, MD](#), earned his medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine. He then completed both his residency and fellowship at Detroit Medical Center/Wayne State University.

Dr. Henry's clinical interests include early child behavioral health, ADHD, autism spectrum disorders, athlete mental health, and sport psychiatry.

Practice: [Mental Health](#)



With warm regards,

[Dr. Herb Bevan](#) and [Jill Armstrong, RN](#)



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