

Michigan transit agencies to host blood drive competition

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News Advocate Staff

August 21, 2025



Two local transit agencies will take part in the Transit Blood Drive Competition.

The friendly competition includes Benzie Bus, Bay Area Transportation Authority, Cadillac Wexford Transit Authority and Manistee County Transportation Inc.

“Our staff is excited to roll up our sleeves for a good cause — and to have a little fun competing with our friends at BATA, Wex Express and Manistee Dial-A-Ride,” said Nancy Hunt, human resources and office manager for Benzie Bus. “We invite the public to come out, donate blood and help Benzie Bus win the title for most pints collected.”

The transportation companies each will hold a community blood drive, in partnership with Versiti Blood Center of Michigan in September.

Each agency will host its own blood drive:

- Manistee County Transportation Inc: 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sept. 8;

- BATA Hall St Station: 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 9;
- Wex Express: 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sept. 9; and
- Benzie Bus: 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 12.

“We have a long history of working closely with our neighboring transit agencies to get people where they need to go — and this blood drive competition is another great example of that teamwork in action,” Benzie Bus executive director Jessica Carland said. “We’re excited to rally our riders and staff for a little healthy competition, all in the spirit of saving lives.”

As an added bonus, Versiti is offering all blood donors the chance to win a VIP football experience. Eligible donors will be automatically entered for a chance to win two tickets and a VIP experience to their favorite hometown football team.

The Michigan prize includes:

- Two tickets to the Michigan Wolverines vs. Michigan State Spartans game on Oct. 25
- One official fan blanket
- A \$100 Fan Shop e-gift card (based on winner’s team preference)
- A \$100 VISA gift card

This multi-agency effort aims to boost blood donations during a critical time of year. Each donation can save up to three lives. Donors of all blood types are urgently needed.

Appointments are encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome as space allows. Donors can sign up for a local blood drive online at donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules.

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