



March 26, 2020
Board of Health Update

Personal Care Attendant (PCA) Hotline: 1-844-422-6277

The PCA Program is a MassHealth program that helps people with permanent or chronic disabilities keep their independence, stay in the community, and manage their own personal care by providing funds to hire personal care attendants (PCAs). MassHealth announced today that it has established a dedicated hotline through MassOptions to connect MassHealth PCA Consumers to services in the event their personal care attendant is unavailable. Consumers can call and will be connected to home health services in their region.

Red Cross Call for Blood & Plasma Donors

The American Red Cross is facing a severe blood shortage. The COVID-19 virus has caused the cancellation of blood drives across the Commonwealth. There is now an urgent need for patients with chronic conditions and trauma, as well as ensuring an adequate blood and blood product supply going forward. The Governor has deemed blood and plasma donors, along with the employees of the organizations that operate blood banks and blood drives, as essential services.

The need is urgent, and donating is a necessity to supply hospitals with the blood our neighbors require. Donating blood is safe and people should not hesitate to give. Those who are healthy, feeling well and eligible to give blood or platelets, are urged to make an appointment to donate as soon as possible by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting www.RedCrossBlood.org or calling **1800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)**.