

For Immediate Release



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Contact: John Yeager | 425-765-9845 | JYeager@BloodworksNW.org

Karen Kirby | 206-689-6359 | karenk@bloodworksnw.org

Bloodworks Northwest Reassures Community It's Safe to Donate Blood

Donors Reminded to visit Neighborhood Donor Centers and Blood Drives

Seattle, WA – Recognizing that donors may have questions and concerns in light of the state of emergency declared in Washington State following the death of a patient infected with the COVID-19 (2019-novel coronavirus), Bloodworks Northwest reassures the community that it's safe to donate blood, and donations are continuously needed.

"We're actively monitoring the evolving COVID-19 situation and maintaining communication with local health departments," said Bloodworks President and CEO Curt Bailey "Our primary focus is providing a safe and reliable blood supply to our hospital partners across the Northwest, and that's only possible by making opportunities to donate blood available at our donor centers, area businesses, churches, and schools, and seeing our community continue to turn out for local patients."

It takes 1,000 people showing up to donate at a [donor center](#) or [blood drive](#) every day to keep our community's blood supply at stable levels. Blood donations not only help those who have suffered trauma, they also help those with cancer and blood disorders, surgery patients, premature babies, and others who cannot live without the support of volunteer blood donors.

Bloodworks officials are concerned that as fears of coronavirus heighten, low donor participation will harm the blood supply. "We can't allow what's happening to blood inventories in [other countries](#) affected by COVID-19, where they're seeing sharp declines in donation, to happen here," said Curt Bailey. "Our community strives to maintain a four-day supply of blood. A sudden drop in the blood supply will have consequences and put surgeries and patients at risk. If you're healthy and haven't donated recently – or you're a first time

donor – please make an appointment this week and plan to be a regular donor so the blood supply is always strong.”

“Bloodworks would like to reassure the community that its policies and procedures have been developed to assure compliance with FDA, CDC, and other applicable recommendations related to COVID-19,” said Bloodworks Medical Director of Blood Services Dr. Kirsten Alcorn. “All of our processes have been developed to optimize the safety of the blood supply and donors. Routine blood donor screening methods would be expected to reliably protect the blood supply because we routinely ask about illness and travel.”

“We want our community to know that we are addressing their questions and concerns about blood donation and blood safety using the most up-to-date information available,” said Dr. Alcorn. “We’ll continue to make updates as we learn about the outbreak.”

There have been no reported cases of transfusion-transmitted coronavirus; and respiratory viruses, in general, are not known to be transmitted by blood transfusion. (Source: [FDA](#))

Blood donation takes about an hour from registration to post-donation refreshment. Information about [who can donate](#) and where, is available at www.bloodworksnw.org.

Additional Resources:

For the latest information on COVID-19 please visit the [CDC website](#) and Washington State Department of Health [COVID-19 main page](#).

Bloodworks Donor Centers:

Appointments and information at BloodworksNW.org, 800-398-7888, or text bloodapp to 91985 to receive a link on your phone.

- [Bellevue Center](#)
1807 132nd Avenue NE
Bellevue, WA 98005
425-453-4011
- [Bellingham Center](#)
410 W Bakerview Rd., Suite 117
Bellingham, WA 98226
360-671-8848
- [Central Seattle](#)
921 Terry Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104
206-292-6500
- [Olympia Center](#)
1220 Eastside Street SE
Olympia, WA 98501
360-596-3950
- [North Seattle Center](#)
10357 Stone Avenue N
Seattle, WA 98133
206-526-1970
- [Silverdale Center](#)
3230 NW Randall Way
Silverdale, WA 98383
360-308-7340

- [Everett Center](#)
2703 Oakes Avenue
Everett, WA 98201
425-740-2909
- [Federal Way Center](#)
1414 S 324TH Street
Suite B101
Federal Way, WA 98003
253-945-8660
- [Lynnwood Center](#)
19723 Highway 99, Suite F
Lynnwood, WA 98036
425-412-1000
- [Tukwila Center](#)
130 Andover Park E
Tukwila, WA 98188
206-241-6300
- [Vancouver, WA Donor Center](#)
9320 NE Vancouver Mall Blvd, Suite100
Vancouver, WA 98662
360-567-4800
- [Lane Center](#)
2211 Willamette St
Eugene, OR 97405
541-484-9111

About Bloodworks Northwest – Bloodworks Northwest is backed by 75 years of Northwest history and 250,000 donors. It is local, nonprofit, independent, volunteer-supported and community-based. A recognized leader in transfusion medicine, Bloodworks serves patients at hospitals in Washington, Oregon and Alaska — partnering closely with local hospitals to deliver the highest level of patient care. Comprehensive services include blood components, complex cross-matching, specialized lab services for organ transplants, care for patients with blood disorders, and collection of cord blood stem cells for cancer treatment. Bloodworks Research Institute performs leading-edge research in blood biology, transfusion medicine, blood storage and treatment of blood disorders. Patients with traumatic injuries, undergoing surgeries or organ transplantation, or receiving treatment for cancer and blood disorders all depend on our services, expertise, laboratories and research. Blood donation appointments can be scheduled on the [Bloodworks App](#). For more information visit bloodworksnw.org.

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