

For Immediate Release



Date: November 11, 2020

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Bracing for Higher Demand Bloodworks Northwest Calls on Blood Donors to Act Quickly

Record COVID-19 Numbers and Approaching Winter Flu Season Concern Local Blood Officials

Seattle, WA - After weeks of strong inventory, blood supplies across the Pacific Northwest are fast declining, so Bloodworks Northwest is urging people to act quickly in the days ahead and into the holidays. This week, Washington and Oregon Governors [reported alarmingly high coronavirus rates](#), and according to the [Washington Department of Public Health](#), numbers for those testing positive in Washington State for COVID-19 hit an all-time high. As the nation confronts new surges of COVID-19 cases, Bloodworks is urging eligible individuals to make and keep an appointment to donate blood now. While there are many uncertainties in the months ahead, one thing that remains constant is the need for blood.

“We want to avoid chronic blood shortages as we venture into the winter months and further into the pandemic. Recently, we’ve seen an increase in usage, a decrease in donations, and fewer people showing up for their appointments,” said Bloodworks President and CEO Curt Bailey. “In the last month, hospital transfusion needs have increased more than 8% which is the equivalent of about 300 units each week. Blood donation remains safe and essential. Without our community’s assistance, the availability of blood for patients is at risk.”

Not sure whether you’re eligible to donate blood? There are some [basic qualifications to donate](#)—typically you’ll need to be at least 18, at least 110 pounds and in good health. But many other factors, like travel, tattoos, and vaccinations people think might disqualify them aren’t true.

“A severe flu season can greatly impact our blood supply since we need people to stay healthy to donate,” said Bloodworks Executive Vice President of Blood Services Vicki Finson. “Something more people should know is that flu vaccination does not prevent blood donation. If you just received your flu shot, there is no wait to donate and patients in our community urgently need your help.”

And with the holidays approaching, Bloodworks anticipates even more challenges in maintaining an adequate blood supply because blood donations over the holidays typically drop.

This year, both Christmas and New Year's Day occur on a Friday. Because the week is shorter, Bloodworks expects to experience lower than normal blood donations. Across the U.S., a majority of blood centers are already reporting significant declines in their blood collections.

Unlike red blood cells, which can be stored for up to 42 days, platelets, the most common component transfused to stop bleeding, can only be stored for five days. The survival of cancer patients, victims of automobile accidents and other trauma during the holidays, depends upon a steady supply of platelets. Due to the short storage life of platelets, regular daily donations are even more important for a steady supply. Bloodworks encourages people with the blood types O positive, A positive, and B positive, to give platelet donation a try by calling 1-800-398-7888 to schedule an appointment.

You can donate platelets 24 times per year. The entire process of donating blood only takes an hour; donating platelets takes two hours from registration to cookie – which is a perfect break from post-holiday sale shopping. Bloodworks friendly team keeps platelet donors comfy cozy and entertained with iPads streaming Netflix. All Bloodworks donation centers and pop-ups are in strict accordance with social distancing guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

bloodworksnw.org/coronavirus

Appointments and masks required. In accordance with current social distancing guidelines, no walk-ins, guests, or people under age 16 are permitted onsite. 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](#), Washington State Department of Health [COVID-19 main page](#), and [Oregon Health Authority](#).

Bloodworks Donor Centers and Pop-Up Centers:

Appointments and information at BloodworksNW.org or 800-398-7888. See our list of [Donor Centers](#) and [Pop-Up locations](#).

- Bellevue Center
1807 132nd Avenue NE
Bellevue, WA 98005
425-453-4200
- 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, 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
- Eugene, OR 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 at bloodworksnw.org.

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