

For Immediate Release



Date: December 15, 2020

Contact: John Yeager 425-765-9845 jyeager@bloodworksnw.org

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

Tragedy Becomes Call to Action on Washington and Oregon Blood Donor Day December 18, 2020

150 blood donations were rushed to injured passengers of 2017 Amtrak train derailment underscoring need for emergency preparedness this winter and through pandemic

All blood donations through December 31 tested for COVID-19 antibodies to help with community readiness in hopes of finding more convalescent plasma donors

Seattle, WA – The 2017 Amtrak 501 train derailment demonstrated that when it comes to emergency needs, the Pacific Northwest blood supply needs to be stocked and at the ready – community ready. Governors Kate Brown and Jay Inslee have recognized December 18, 2020 as [Washington and Oregon Blood Donor Day](#) in recognition of the donors who stepped up before and after the accident. Bloodworks invites the community to take part by donating a pint of blood at [centers](#) or [pop-up blood drives](#) across the region to commemorate the vital role local donors play in emergency readiness. All donors who give on December 18 each donor will receive a special pin.

“Our mission calls on all of us – our community – to be prepared and ready for anything,” said Bloodworks President and CEO Curt Bailey. “Having blood on the shelves is essential when unforeseeable emergencies or tragedies happen. Hospitals need donors to keep donating throughout the winter season and to make it a lifesaving habit.”

The 2017 Amtrak train tragic event demonstrated that when it comes to patient needs, there’s no such thing as a holiday. Demand for blood is continuous to support local patients having surgeries, trauma care and organ transplants – as well as patients needing blood for cancer treatment. It typically takes 1,000 donors to meet community need. This month, Bloodworks needs an additional 300 donors a week to keep up with hospital requests for blood. 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.

Donating blood in December is also an important step in learning if you have Sars-CoV-2 (COVID-19) antibodies. That's because Bloodworks is testing all donations for COVID-19 antibodies to help donors learn if they have the antibodies powerful in helping critically ill coronavirus patients through [convalescent plasma donation](#). Test results will indicate if a person's immune system has produced antibodies to the virus, regardless of whether you ever showed symptoms. Information at [bloodworksnw.org](#).

About December 18, 2017

On December 18, 2017 the Amtrak 501 passenger train heading from Seattle to Portland tragically derailed, prompting immediate action by first responders – to aid everyone aboard the train. The injured passengers would be transported to local hospitals, and cared for with 150 blood donations made by our community. The care provided was only possible because Bloodworks shelves were stocked, weeks prior, with enough blood. The accident underscores the necessity for the community to be prepared for the next local emergency.

About December 18, 2020

- First Lady Trudi Inslee will donate blood at Silverdale Donor Center
- Pop Up @ Kent Station includes Cancer Survivor & Mayor Dana Ralph
- Pop Up @ South Sound Manor (Olympia) donors include state and local representatives
- Pop Up @ Graduate Hotel (Eugene, OR) donors include Mayor Lucy Vinis
- Buildings across the Northwest will be illuminated red to commemorate the day, including Lumen Field, T-Mobile Park, Columbia Tower, Hult Center (Eugene), Oregon Convention Center, Powell's Books, and more.
- **Statewide virtual blood drive through December 18. Use the code "Hope" at your appointment check-in to have your donation counted towards goal of 501 donors.**

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
- 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

- Central Seattle
921 Terry Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104
206-292-6500
- 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
- Silverdale Center
3230 NW Randall Way
Silverdale, WA 98383
360-308-7340
- 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.

###