

For Immediate Release



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

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

Concern Growing over Confusion about Donation Eligibility after Receiving COVID-19 Vaccine

Bloodworks Northwest Issues Emergency Appeal - Donors Can Donate Immediately After Vaccine

Type O & Type A Positive at Emergency Levels - Last Week Over 1,600 Donors Cancelled or Rescheduled Appointments

(April 8th, 2021 – Seattle, WA) With Type O Positive blood supplies hovering at emergency low levels and transfusions at 110% of normal average indicating continuing high patient need, Bloodworks Northwest is making an urgent call for blood donors to book appointments in April. This shortage has left our community's blood supply below the operational level needed to meet patient needs. Adding to this pressure is concern that some donors may be still confused about whether they can donate blood soon after receiving their COVID-19 vaccination, leading them to delay donations unnecessarily. For the care and safety of our community, Bloodworks Northwest is reminding the community that donating blood is a critical activity and there is no reason to delay donating after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. Bloodworks officials are also concerned about the number of appointment cancellations due to this confusion. Bloodworks says from the beginning of the month, over 1,600 donors canceled or had to reschedule their appointment.

Bloodworks Northwest urges community members of all blood types to rush to [book appointments](#) at [Donor Centers](#) and [Pop-Up Blood Drives](#) in April.

Some Facts:

- Patient usage is 5% above normal usage for the past 4 weeks resulting in close to 700 additional units
- Donations have decreased by 12% in the past week which resulted in collecting 400 units below what we would normally expect

- Our community's blood supply is currently 1400 units below operational levels. We have less than a 24 hour supply for most blood types
- Our Type O Positive supply is currently 800 units below operational levels leaving us with less than a 24 hour supply
- Our Type A Positive supply is currently 500 units below operational levels leaving us with less than a 24 hour supply
- Confusion over donation eligibility after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine may be prompting donors to postpone their appointments. **There is no wait to donate if you receive the Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson/Janssen, Novovax or AstraZeneca COVID vaccine.**
- Demand in need for Type O positive blood has hit local inventory especially hard, resulting in an emergency, one-day supply of the most common blood type.
- Type O negative blood is considered the universal blood type that can be transfused to any patient suffering from trauma when they are rushed to a hospital with no time to type that person's blood. When there is a shortage of Type O+ blood it creates a ripple effect depleting Type O negative.
- It takes 1,000 donor registrations every day to maintain an operational blood supply in Western Washington and Oregon allowing our community to respond to routine needs for blood and emergencies.
- Blood donations help trauma patients and also help those with cancer, premature babies, surgery patients, and others who cannot live without the support of volunteer blood donors.
- Blood donation is a safe and essential action during the pandemic. Appointments and masks are required. In accordance with current social distancing guidelines, no walk-ins, guests, or people under age 16 are permitted onsite. Bloodworks has posted information addressing questions and concerns for blood donors at bloodworksnw.org/coronavirus.

Donations with Bloodworks provide 95% of the lifesaving blood supply to Pacific Northwest hospitals. It takes about an hour to give blood from check-in to post-donation cookie. 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
- Olympia Center
1220 Eastside Street SE

- 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
 - 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
- 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
 - 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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