

**For Immediate Release**



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**Blood Supply “Hanging by a Thread” –  
Nothing Short of National Public Health Emergency  
Bloodworks Northwest Sounding Alarm On Most Prolonged Blood Shortage  
in Recent Years**

*Western Washington & Oregon Donors Needed to Book Appointments Immediately*

**(January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Seattle, WA)** – A half-day supply is all that remains on the near-empty shelves at Bloodworks. Bloodworks Northwest is once again declaring a “Code Red” alarm to combat the “most prolonged, most severe blood shortage in recent years,” affecting local hospitals and trauma centers across the Pacific Northwest over the last several weeks. Bloodworks cannot fill all hospital orders with dangerously low supplies of Type O and A. Hospitals are advised to conserve the limited onsite supplies to maintain a supply for emergencies. Donors in Western Washington and Oregon must respond to this emergency by booking and keeping appointments to donate every 56 days.

Bloodworks Northwest Executive Vice President of Blood Services Vicki Finson says, "This is the most prolonged, most severe blood shortage in recent years, with little indication of significant improvement. Therefore, we could be hanging by a thread for months to come if our community doesn't take action." Finson adds, "Blood is being shipped to hospitals as fast as it's being collected. We're communicating with hospitals to conserve blood and appealing to donors to book appointments so that doctors don't need to make difficult decisions like canceling surgeries or delaying transfusions based on the blood supply."

The recent dramatic rise in the Omicron variant of COVID-19 means fewer donors are available to donate. Bloodworks says if you're feeling healthy, we need new and returning donors to donate now. Donors can safely donate the same day they get their COVID vaccine booster. Same day blood donation appointments are available at most locations, and appointments in the next three weeks are just as vital. Right now, universal [Type O blood](#) is extremely

important, especially for trauma and emergency situations when the patient's blood type is unknown. January is National Blood Donor Month, and with this blood shortage that is nothing short of a national public health emergency, the importance of blood donors is keenly felt

#### **Facts:**

- Nearly 1,100 open appointments left to be filled in next 10 days.
- Showing up for the donation appointment is just as important as making it. People not showing up to appointments impacts the ability to collect enough blood. For assistance finding an appointment or to reschedule, call 800-398-7888.
- All regions of the U.S. are [currently experiencing a shortage](#), so assistance from other centers is uncertain or minimal.
- Responding to emergencies requires blood that is already collected, tested, on the shelves, and ready for immediate use by first responders and medical staff.
- 39% of the population has O+ blood, and only 9% of the population has O- blood. You do not need to know your blood type to become a blood donor. [Learn more](#).

**Vicki Finson is available for interviews. Contact John Yeager [jyeager@bloodworksnw.org](mailto:jyeager@bloodworksnw.org) or 425-765-9845**

#### **About Donating Blood:**

- Most people in good health, at least 18 years old, and who weigh at least 110 pounds can donate whole blood every 56 days. Check out [our detailed eligibility Q&A](#) or call us at 800-398-7888.
- 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](http://www.bloodworksnw.org).

#### **COVID 19 Resources:**

Donating blood 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](http://bloodworksnw.org/coronavirus).

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](http://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
- 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 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
- 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](http://bloodworksnw.org).

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