

**For Immediate Release**



**Date:** September 30, 2022

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## **Hurricane Ian Prompts Second Emergency Shipment of Blood to Florida**

*Bloodworks Northwest to ship additional 100 units to Florida blood centers*

*Over 12,000 open appointments in October*

**SEATTLE (September 30, 2022)** — A second emergency supply of 100 Type O units from Bloodworks Northwest donors will be shipped to SunCoast Blood Centers in Florida in response to an additional request for help from the state, which is recovering from Hurricane Ian that shut down blood collections. Bloodworks Northwest and its donors have so far provided 130 units of blood to support medical systems in dire need. Bloodworks Northwest is now challenging our community to become blood donors and restock the shelves.

“Bloodworks Northwest and blood centers across America are funneling blood components to Florida as fast as possible as they recover from Hurricane Ian’s devastating impact,” said Bloodworks President and CEO Curt Bailey. “We’re able to send this sizeable shipment only through the support of our dedicated blood donors. But they can’t do it alone. We need more people to use this time to make their first donation because lives are on the line.”

The weekend shipment of 100 units will include a large amount of Type O blood and other types in high need. Type O blood is the most critical blood type for supporting hospitals — so critical that a number of donation slots are reserved each day for donors with O-positive and O-negative blood types.

Approximately 39% of the population has Type O-positive blood, and 9% has Type O-negative, the universal blood type.

It takes a thousand donors a day of all blood types to maintain a safe and reliable supply for unexpected emergencies and continued medical care in our region. Over 12,000 open appointments between now and Halloween. Same day appointments available. Donors in October play an important role in readying the blood supply for the busy holiday season.

Bloodworks recently added more appointment times at its [donor centers](#) and [pop-up blood drives](#) throughout the Pacific Northwest to make it even more convenient to give blood. New and repeat donors are urged to make their one-hour [appointments](#) today and do not need to know their blood

type. Donors in October can [enter to win prizes](#), like an Apple Macbook Air; those who sign up to receive emails can receive gift card promotions.

### **About Donating Blood:**

- Donating blood is a safe and essential action. Appointments, masks, and a photo ID are required. Information about [who can donate](#) and where is available at [www.BloodworksNW.org](http://www.BloodworksNW.org).
- Most people in good health, who are at least 18 years old, and who weigh at least 110 lbs. can donate whole blood. Those aged 16 and 17 may donate in Washington with signed [Bloodworks permission form](#). In Oregon, anyone 16 or older can donate. Read this [detailed eligibility Q&A](#) or call 800-398-7888.

### **APPOINTMENTS: Bloodworks Donor Centers and Pop-Up Centers**

Appointments and more information are available at [BloodworksNW.org](http://BloodworksNW.org) or 800-398-7888. See our list of [donor centers](#) and [pop-up blood drive locations](#), including our new donor center in Renton.

### **About Bloodworks Northwest**

*Donations to Bloodworks Northwest provide 95% of the lifesaving blood supply to hospitals in Western Washington and Oregon. Since 1944, Bloodworks has served the Pacific Northwest as a local, nonprofit, independent, volunteer-supported and community-based blood center and research institute. Bloodworks partners closely with local hospitals to deliver the highest level of patient care. Its 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 its services, expertise, laboratories and research. Blood donation appointments can be scheduled at [BloodworksNW.org](http://BloodworksNW.org).*

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