

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Heat Wave Threatens Blood Shortage

High temperatures disrupt mobile drives, reduce collections

Seattle, WA – Bloodworks Northwest has issued an urgent appeal for donors after collections began to dip sharply as a result of the mounting heat wave.

“With a record-breaking heat wave coming this week we face serious shortages if people don’t come in to donate,” said James P. AuBuchon, MD, president and CEO of Bloodworks.

“Extremely hot weather can disrupt mobile drives in places without air conditioning. While all our centers and bloodmobiles have AC, some older buildings where mobile drives happen do not. If inside temperatures go over 80 degrees, mobile drives might need to end earlier than planned. Donor safety, comfort and well-being is always paramount.”

Snoqualmie Ice Cream has teamed up with Bloodworks to again offer free pints of ice cream to donors to help offset the impact of the heat wave. People who register at any Bloodworks center on August 4-6 will receive a free voucher for a pint of ice cream. To learn more and register, visit: <https://www.bloodworksnw.org/icecream>.

High temperatures this week are expected to result in the loss of 500 collections. “We are already at the point where inventories of the most-needed blood types are at critical levels,” AuBuchon noted. “With more hot days forecast for the week ahead, we will face an emergency if donors do not come in and donate.”

Blood collections usually fall by 15-20 percent during summer -- with schools and colleges on break and donors on vacation. But the need for blood is often higher in summer from patients undergoing surgeries, ERs treating trauma victims, people having cancer treatment and surgeons performing organ transplants. It takes about 800 donors a day to maintain a sufficient supply for the nearly 100 Northwest hospitals served by Bloodworks.

To avoid a crisis Bloodworks is asking donors who have not donated recently to schedule an appointment at one of its 12 centers. There is a special need for Type O blood and platelets, but all donors are welcome.

Donors can schedule an appointment at any [donor center](#) by going online at schedule.bloodworksnw.org or by calling 1-800-398-7888. People can also check online at bloodworksnw.org to find dates and times of mobile drives close to where they live or work.



BloodworksNW joins other healthcare organizations in the region in urging everyone to keep well hydrated, use sunscreen and avoid strenuous activities during the heat of the days ahead.

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BloodworksNW Donor Centers

- [Bellevue Center](#)
1807 132nd Avenue NE
Bellevue, WA 98005
425-453-4011
- [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
Suite 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
- [Lane Blood Center](#)
2211 Willamette St
Eugene, OR 97405
541-484-9111



About BloodworksNW

Bloodworks (formerly Puget Sound Blood Center) is backed by 70 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 in more than 90 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. For more information, visit bloodworksnw.org