



NEWS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

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Hurricane Season 2018 Looms
Northwest Donors Urged to Help

SEATTLE — With the hurricane season here, experts at Seattle-based Bloodworks Northwest are concerned that a critically low inventory of type O negative blood and platelets will leave them hard-pressed to respond to the next national emergency, let alone meet needs of the nearly 100 local hospitals that count on Bloodworks for even common procedures like surgeries.

The impact of reduced collections caused by warmer temperatures, school breaks, and summer vacations has triggered a special appeal to donors to help meet the urgent patient needs in Northwest hospitals and potentially in support of disaster victims around the country in the coming weeks.

A blood type is considered critically low when it reaches a two-day supply, as opposed to a four-day operational inventory. It takes over 800 donor registrations every day to maintain an operational blood supply in the Northwest.

“While our primary mission supports local patients, when catastrophes happen we do whatever we can to help -- even when local supplies are as tight as they’ve been this summer,” said James P. AuBuchon, MD, president and CEO of Bloodworks. “Our amazing donors make it possible.”

“We never know when the next natural or man-made disaster like Hurricane Harvey, the Amtrak 501 derailment or Las Vegas shooting will take place and we need to be ready. The blood already collected and on the shelves allows us to respond to emergencies when they happen. We can be prepared if our generous donors step up like they did last year during those disasters.”

There is a special need for O blood type and platelets, but all types are welcomed. Type O is the most common blood type in the Northwest, accounting for 48 percent of the population. As the universal blood type, O negative blood can be transfused to any patient suffering from trauma when they are rushed to a hospital and there is no time to type their blood.

Bloodworks urges past and first time blood and platelet donors to schedule an appointment at a center or mobile blood drive near to where they live or work. Appointments can be made online at bloodworksnw.org or by calling 1-800-398-7888. More information at www.bloodworksnw.org



About Bloodworks Northwest

Bloodworks 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. 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

Bloodworks Northwest Donor Centers

Appointments and information at BloodworksNW.org or 800-398-7888

- [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