

For Immediate Release



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High school and college closures wipe out 25% of local blood donations

First-time and repeat donors urged to help others in the pandemic

Seattle, WA – As high school, college, business, and event closures unfold across the Pacific Northwest, Bloodworks Northwest officials issued a stark warning about the impact on blood drives in the community. Approximately 60% of the blood supply is collected at mobile drives, of which schools make up 25%. School closures add new stress to a community blood supply already in peril from ever-diminishing opportunities for the public to donate. Unless students, parents, and faculty redirect those donations to nearby [donor centers](#) or [blood drives](#), a staggering 3,200 student driven donations could be gone in an instant.

"Inventories are holding steady now thanks to the faithful donors—and an important record number of first-time donors— who recognized the urgent community need for donations and made up the shortfall from 100 cancelled blood drives so far," said Curt Bailey, president and CEO of Bloodworks Northwest. "Unfortunately, donations will likely fall in the days ahead.

"People are asking: 'what can I do to help the community weather this crisis?' One answer: new donors must step forward to save a life in the weeks ahead. And all donors must commit to making this generous and lifesaving gift a regular habit. The health of people in our community depends on it. And as current events demonstrate, we all depend on each other," Bailey said.

This week, Bloodworks Northwest is joined by the [CDC](#), [FDA](#), [Washington State Department of Public Health](#), [Tacoma-Pierce County Department of Health](#), and [King County Public Health](#), among others, in urging the community to make an appointment to donate. Bloodworks Northwest is also directing local business and community leaders to include blood donation in their organizations' emergency preparedness.

"The community needs all organizations of any size – and especially businesses – to make blood donation part of its emergency preparedness plans and to appoint someone ensuring that blood donation plan is implemented," Bailey said. "All of us have a responsibility to the

communities in which we live and work to come together to ensure blood needs are being met. This is how we keep our communities safe.

“Although some hospitals are postponing elective surgeries for now, 1,000 people of all blood types are still needed to [make an appointment](#) to give blood every day,” added Vicki Finson, executive vice president of blood services. “To date, cancelled blood drives already translate into 2,500 lost donations. Widespread school closures mean an additional 3,200 missed donations loom ahead. That means the equivalent of almost 6 days of community blood supply needed for cancer patients, trauma victims, premature babies, or to treat severely ill COVID-19 patients, among others.”

Whole blood donors can give blood once every 56 days, up to 8 times a year. Those age 16 & 17 who meet donation weight and eligibility requirements, may donate with a signed [Bloodworks permission form](#).

Donating blood is a safe activity, and there is no risk of contracting coronavirus from the blood donation process. (Source: [AABB](#)) Bloodworks policies comply with FDA, CDC, local health departments, and other recommendations related to COVID-19. Bloodworks routinely sanitizes donation areas, chairs, surfaces and common objects like door knobs and light switches, and use hand sanitizer. Staff, donors, and volunteers are encouraged to stay home if they feel unwell.

Routine blood donor screening methods that are already in place would be expected to reliably protect the blood supply, and it’s important to note that there have been no reported cases of transfusion-transmitted coronavirus anywhere in the world. (Source: [FDA](#))

Bloodworks has posted information addressing questions and concerns for blood donors at [bloodworksnw.org/coronavirus](#). Blood donation takes about an hour from registration to post-donation refreshment. Information about [who can donate](#) and where, is available at [www.bloodworksnw.org](#). Donors can make an appointment for donating at a center or drive to minimize wait time.

Additional Resources:

For the latest information on COVID-19 please visit the [CDC website](#) and Washington State Department of Health [COVID-19 main page](#).

Bloodworks Donor Centers:

Appointments and information at BloodworksNW.org, 800-398-7888, or text bloodapp to 91985 to receive a link on your phone. Please check [website](#) for extended donor center hours.

- [Bellevue Center](#)
1807 132nd Avenue NE
Bellevue, WA 98005
425-453-4011
- [Bellingham Center](#)
410 W Bakerview Rd., Suite 117
- [Olympia Center](#)
1220 Eastside Street SE
Olympia, WA 98501
360-596-3950
- [North Seattle Center](#)
10357 Stone Avenue N

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

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 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 on the [Bloodworks App](#). For more information visit bloodworksnw.org.

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