For Immediate Release



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Patients are counting on "Pop-Up" Donor Centers to pop-up local blood supply 10,000 donors needed in 10 days to meet growing demand

Bloodworks Northwest Partners with Mariners, Seahawks, Sounders, Storm, Tacoma Rainiers, OL Reign and Everett Silvertips at Arenas, Stadiums Across Pacific Northwest to Provide Donors a Lifesaving Experience

Seattle, WA – You may have read "*The World's Stadiums Become a Lifeline*" in <u>The New York Times</u> about how stadiums and arenas across the world are finding new lifesaving purpose. The article includes mention of the Pacific Northwest's CenturyLink Field and T-Mobile Park.

Soccer fields, football stadiums, tennis and basketball courts have been filling gaps in health care systems overwhelmed by the coronavirus pandemic. Here in the Pacific Northwest, country clubs, restaurants and even a martial arts facility are also being turned into instant blood donation centers called, "Pop-Ups." The need for donations from Pop-Up Centers like one at Tacoma's Cheney Stadium is growing fast.

Hospitals and healthcare providers in the region are preparing to tackle a significant backlog of surgeries, medical treatments and procedures that require transfusions. Patient needs and requests for blood from local hospitals are rising quickly. Bloodworks Northwest is determined to be ready for patients and to support our healthcare partners, however right now the need is outpacing the supply. Our community urgently needs 10,000 donors in the next 10 days to book appointments to give blood.

"Mounting requests from hospitals are outpacing current collection levels," said Curt Bailey, President and CEO of Bloodworks Northwest. "We cannot afford to re-start these and other treatments without being utterly certain the blood will be there and steadily available over the coming days and months. Thankfully, area sports teams, venues, and businesses have rallied to make this creative new approach for blood donation possible in this crucial time. The need is now for people to book, pop-in, and donate."

Essential measures to contain the coronavirus like stay-at-home orders, online learning at colleges and schools, workplace and business closures, social distancing to discourage public and faith-based

gatherings – also took away usual settings for mobile blood drives that account for up to 60% of collections (the equivalent of 34,000 units since March 1).

What is a Pop Up Donor Center?

Pop-Up Donor Centers are multi-week drives in spacious, temporary venues like T-Mobile Park (Seattle), Cheney Stadium (Tacoma), Canterwood Country Club (Gig Harbor), Combat Arts Academy (West Seattle), Angel of the Winds Arena (Everett) – along with many other area businesses and churches, which are providing the opportunity for hundreds of donor appointments per day. Extended hours at donor centers also play a key role.

Together, these pop-ups made available 2,500 additional donation opportunities in May, with more planned for June throughout the region:

- Combat Arts Academy of Seattle in West Seattle
- Cornerstone Christian Fellowship in Redmond
- ThinkSpace (Redmond & Seattle)
- T-Mobile Park in Seattle
- Cheney Stadium in Tacoma
- <u>Canterwood Country Club</u> in Gig Harbor
- Angel of the Winds Arena in Everett
- Maple Valley
- Olympia
- Coyote's Bar and Grill in Hillsboro, OR
- Eugene, Oregon Pop Up

Appointments at bloodworksnw.org or by calling 800-398-7888.

Whole blood donors can give blood once every 56 days, up to 6 times a year. Those aged 16 & 17 who meet donation weight and eligibility requirements may donate with a signed <u>Bloodworks permission form</u>. You do not need to know your blood type to donate blood. (Minors donating in Oregon do not require a permission form.)

Appointments are required to donate blood, and no guests or people under the age of 16 are permitted onsite to support safe social distancing, minimize wait time, and ensure the best donation experience possible. Same day appointments are often available by calling ahead to 800-398-7888. Special appointments have been reserved for donors who are blood type O negative in this crucial time, so please contact us at 800-398-7888 or email schedule@bloodworksnw.org if this is your blood type.

Donating blood is safe, and there is no risk of contracting coronavirus from the donation process. (Source: <u>AABB</u>) Bloodworks policies comply with FDA, CDC, local health departments and other recommendations related to COVID-19. Bloodworks follows CDC guidance on wearing masks by wearing cloth face masks donated by volunteers or a face shield. We encourage donors to wear masks to their donation appointments and whenever they are in public. Bloodworks routinely sanitizes donation areas, chairs, surfaces and common objects such as door knobs and light switches, and use hand sanitizer. Staff, donors, and volunteers are advised to stay home if they feel unwell. Bloodworks has posted information addressing questions and concerns for blood donors at <u>bloodworksnw.org/coronavirus</u>. Blood donation takes about an hour from registration to post-donation refreshment. Information about <u>who can donate</u> and where, is available at <u>www.bloodworksnw.org</u>.

Additional Resources:

For the latest information on COVID-19 please visit the <u>CDC website</u>, Washington State Department of Health <u>COVID-19 main page</u>, and <u>Oregon Health Authority</u>.

Bloodworks Donor Centers:

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

- <u>Bellevue Center</u> 1807 132nd Avenue NE Bellevue, WA 98005
- <u>Bellingham Center</u> 410 W Bakerview Rd., Suite 117 Bellingham, WA 98226
- <u>Central Seattle</u> 921 Terry Avenue Seattle, WA 98104
- <u>Everett Center</u> 2703 Oakes Avenue Everett, WA 98201
- Federal Way Center 1414 S 324TH Street, B101 Federal Way, WA 98003
- Lynnwood Center 19723 Highway 99, Suite F Lynnwood, WA 98036

- <u>Olympia Center</u>
 1220 Eastside Street SE
 Olympia, WA 98501
- <u>North Seattle Center</u> 10357 Stone Avenue N Seattle, WA 98133
- <u>Silverdale Center</u> 3230 NW Randall Way Silverdale, WA 98383
- <u>Tukwila Center</u> 130 Andover Park E Tukwila, WA 98188
- <u>Vancouver, WA Donor Center</u>
 9320 NE Vancouver Mall Blvd, Suite100
 Vancouver, WA 98662
- Eugene, OR Center 2211 Willamette St Eugene, OR 97405

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 <u>bloodworksnw.org.</u>