

For Immediate Release



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Community action critical to stabilize blood supply through holidays

Highest blood and platelet usage since COVID-19 emergency began

Donating blood remains a safe and essential health service

Seattle, WA – As Oregon and Washington implement new state-wide coronavirus restrictions, Bloodworks Northwest reminds the community that donating blood remains a safe and essential health service. Blood donors are urged to continue their vital role in sustaining community health by donating at Bloodworks [centers](#) or [pop-up blood drives](#) across the Pacific Northwest. Community action is critical over the next four weeks to stabilize the local blood supply through the holidays and into the new year.

“There is an urgent need to save lives in our community and we must all do our part locally to ensure a safe and reliable blood supply,” said Bloodworks President and CEO Curt Bailey.

“We’re experiencing the highest levels of hospital blood and platelet usage since COVID-19 was declared an emergency last March. It’s critical that more donors come forward to meet this rapidly rising need as we enter the holiday season. A drop in community participation will have consequences and put surgeries and patients at risk.”

It typically takes 1,000 donors to meet community need. In recent weeks, Bloodworks needs an additional 300 donors a week to keep up with hospital requests for blood. Not sure whether you’re eligible to donate blood? There are some [basic qualifications to donate](#)—typically you’ll need to be at least 18, at least 110 pounds and in good health. But many other factors, like travel, tattoos, and vaccinations people think might disqualify them aren’t true.

“A severe flu season can greatly impact our blood supply since we need people to stay healthy to donate,” said Bloodworks Executive Vice President of Blood Services Vicki Finson. “Something more people should know is that flu vaccination does not prevent blood donation. If you just received your flu shot, there is no wait to donate and patients in our community urgently need your help.”

Bloodworks has expanded hours Thanksgiving week. Anyone who donates on Wednesday, November 25 through Saturday, November 28 will receive a \$20 digital [grocery gift card](#) in gratitude.

Appointments and masks required. In accordance with current social distancing guidelines, no walk-ins, guests, or people under age 16 are permitted onsite. Information about [who can donate](#) and where, is available at www.bloodworksnw.org.

Additional Resources:

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

Bloodworks Donor Centers and Pop-Up Centers:

Appointments and information at BloodworksNW.org or 800-398-7888. See our list of [Donor Centers](#) and [Pop-Up locations](#).

- Bellevue Center
1807 132nd Avenue NE
Bellevue, WA 98005
425-453-4200
- 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, 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
- Eugene, OR 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 at bloodworksnw.org.

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