

**For Immediate Release**



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### **Blood Supply to Local Trauma and Transplant Centers Running on Empty**

*Bloodworks Northwest issuing urgent appeal for donors after inventories dipped sharply*

*Shortage coincides with World Blood Donor Day June 14*

**(June 14, 2021 Seattle, WA)** – Running out of gas is inconvenient. Running out of blood is deadly. Bloodworks Northwest reports the local blood supply is running on fumes, while patient needs for Group O blood types and platelets are at their highest, and appealing to the community to donate blood now and throughout the summer. Bloodworks is at less than a single day supply of O Positive and O Negative – the two types required most for emergencies in trauma centers across the Pacific Northwest.

“Our community will run out of blood if more people don’t book appointments to donate in June and July,” said Vicki Finson, Bloodworks EVP of Blood Services. “I urge you to make an appointment to give blood as soon as possible to pump up the community and help restore our inventories to healthy levels. A strong blood supply is critical to healthcare in our community.”

With Type O blood supply down 50% and 10,000 open appointments to donate blood from now until Fourth of July, local hospitals have been advised to conserve onsite supplies at a time when hospitals [across the nation](#) are seeing a rise in the number of patients who need blood.

"I think one of the things for people to realize is injury and trauma and having a major injury that require blood can happen at an instant to any of us," said Dr. Saman Arbabi, Medical Director of the Surgical Intensive Care Unit at Harborview. "It is a matter of life and death. We don't give blood to anybody unless they have to have it. And when they get it, it is the difference between whether, "I am going to be alive and I'm going to be dead." So, it's a major part of what we do."

Bloodworks is concerned that the upcoming Fourth of July weekend will further impact their ability to provide urgently-needed blood for emergencies at a time when the trauma units around our region typically experience high patient usage. Bloodworks has perks for people who donate this summer to help end the shortage. Donors who give before the end of August can be entered to win sports prizes, including a Sounders FC Match Experience with Roger Levesque, Mariners tickets and autographed memorabilia, and more at [savemorelivegiveblood.org](http://savemorelivegiveblood.org).

#### **About Donating Blood:**

- Donating blood is a safe and essential action. Appointments, masks, and photo ID required. In accordance with current social distancing guidelines, no walk-ins, guests, or people under age 16 are permitted onsite. Questions at [bloodworksnw.org/coronavirus](http://bloodworksnw.org/coronavirus).
- Most people in good health, at least 18 years old, and who weigh at least 110lbs can donate whole blood. Ages 16 & 17 may donate in WA with signed [Bloodworks permission form](#). In OR, anyone over 16 can donate. Read [detailed eligibility Q&A](#) or call 800-398-7888.
- Donations with Bloodworks provide 95% of the lifesaving blood supply to Pacific Northwest hospitals. It takes about an hour to give blood from check-in to post-donation cookie. Information about [who can donate](#) and where, is available at [www.bloodworksnw.org](http://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](http://BloodworksNW.org) or 800-398-7888. See our list of [Donor Centers](#) and [Pop-Up blood drive locations](#).

- **Bellevue Center**  
1807 132nd Avenue NE  
Bellevue, WA 98005  
425-453-4200
- **Olympia Center**  
1220 Eastside Street SE  
Olympia, WA 98501  
360-596-3950

- **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
- **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](http://bloodworksnw.org).

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