

For Immediate Release



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Blood Donations Urged on Washington & Oregon Blood Donor Day

December 18, 2021, Recognizes Need for Emergency Preparedness By Donating Blood

Bloodworks Northwest invites you to be a life force for our community by donating a pint of blood during a statewide virtual blood drive through the end of the year, a drive which commemorates the second annual Washington and Oregon State Blood Donor Day on December 18, 2021. Governors Kate Brown and Jay Inslee have recognized December 18 as [Washington and Oregon Blood Donor Day](#) in recognition of the donors who stepped up in record numbers before and after the 2017 Amtrack derailment*. Our community can take part by donating at local Bloodworks [donor centers](#) or [pop-up blood drives](#) across the region in recognition of the vital role local donors play in emergency readiness. All donors who give on December 18 will receive a special pin.

“It is our hope that we will be able to engage our community to both understand the importance of blood donation in community readiness and to recognize and celebrate the incredible efforts of emergency management professionals,” said Bloodworks President and CEO Curt Bailey. “Hospitals need donors to donate throughout the winter season—and to make it a lifesaving habit!”

When it comes to patient needs, there is no such thing as a holiday. Demand for blood is continuous to support local patients having surgeries, trauma care and organ transplants – as well as patients needing blood for cancer treatment. It typically takes 1,000 donors each day to meet community need. 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, such as travel, tattoos, and vaccinations which people think might disqualify them, aren’t true.

Virtual Blood Drive

Bloodworks and its community partners are on a [mission to add 10,000 new blood donors](#) by the end of the year. First time and frequent blood donors are urged to participate in a statewide virtual blood drive through December 31. Use the code “Hope” at your appointment check-in to have your donation counted towards the drive.

***About December 18, 2017**

On December 18, 2017 the Amtrak 501 passenger train heading from Seattle to Portland tragically derailed, prompting immediate action by first responders – to aid everyone aboard the train. Injured passengers were transported to local hospitals and cared for with 150 blood donations made by our community. The care provided was only possible because Bloodworks' shelves were stocked, with enough blood. The accident underscores the necessity for the community to be prepared for the next local emergency.

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:

Find appointments, information, and expanded holiday hours at BloodworksNW.org or 800-398-7888, including our list of [Donor Centers](#) and [Pop-Up locations](#).

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, 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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