



For Immediate Release

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Bloodworks Northwest Announces Plan For Weekly Blood Supply Forecast **National Blood Emergency Enters Third Month** Local Officials Encourage Booking Blood Donation Appointments Now

February 22, 2022 - Seattle, WA – Bloodworks Northwest, the sole provider of blood to over 95% of hospitals in the Pacific Northwest, says the impact of the national blood shortage emergency remains in effect as the regional blood shortage hovers around a 1-2 day supply. To keep the public informed about fast-changing developments, Bloodworks is planning a weekly broadcast blood supply forecast based on supply of all blood types and the number of appointments donors need to book in the coming weeks. This forecast will be shared weekly with broadcast media and public health departments in Washington and Oregon, from the Canadian border to Southern Oregon.

“Blood is essential medicine and critical to public health,” said Bloodworks Northwest President and CEO Curt Bailey. “It’s our shared civic responsibility to get the word out of the importance of donating blood regularly. Together, the blood forecast report can help communicate when and where donors are needed most so that our community maintains enough blood for the people who desperately need it and help to prevent blood shortages.”

Local officials will be gathering at Bloodworks on Friday, February 25 at 11:30 a.m. to discuss the response to the historic blood shortages and the impact on the health of our community. Participants include King County Executive Dow Constantine, King County Public Health Dr. Jeff Duchin, and King County Fire Chief Harold Scoggins. Media is invited.

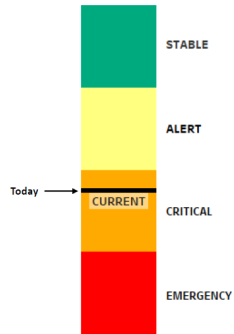
“This is the most prolonged, most severe blood shortage in recent years,” said Bloodworks Northwest Executive Vice President of Blood Services Vicki Finson. “At times blood was being shipped to hospitals as fast as it was being collected. While we have seen a tremendous community response in recent weeks, recovering from blood shortages takes months not days. We are still communicating with hospitals about conserving our vital Type O positive blood.”

As the elective surgeries that had been temporarily restricted a month ago resumed beginning February 17, our blood inventories continue to strain to keep up with demand as a backlog of people wait for surgery. It takes 1,000 people each day to book appointments to maintain a safer and reliable blood supply. Bloodworks is asking everyone who is feeling healthy – especially type O donors – to please schedule a donation asap for the weeks ahead. If you do not see an immediate appointment available, booking the next available appointment in the next 12 weeks is vital to stabilizing our community blood supply.

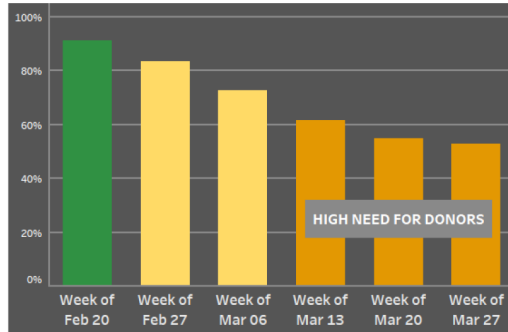
Weekly Blood Supply Forecast (Sample)

Pacific Northwest Blood Supply

Current Regional Blood Supply



6 Week Forecast Donor Appointment Need



About Donating Blood:

- Most people in good health, at least 18 years old, and who weigh at least 110 pounds can donate whole blood every 56 days. Check out [our detailed eligibility Q&A](#) or call us at 800-398-7888.
- 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.

COVID 19 Resources:

Donating blood is a safe and essential action during the pandemic. Appointments and masks are required. In accordance with current social distancing guidelines, no walk-ins, guests, or people under age 16 are permitted onsite. Bloodworks has posted information addressing questions and concerns for blood donors at bloodworksnw.org/coronavirus. 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](#).

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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