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## **Easter and spring break vacation triggers urgent need for donors**

*Donors urged to schedule appointments to donate in April and May*

**SEATTLE, Wash. (April 15, 2022)**—The cumulative impact of Easter and widespread spring break vacations has triggered a special appeal to donors to help meet urgent patient needs in Pacific Northwest hospitals.

“A small dip in donor collections is normal during spring break and other scheduled school vacations,” said Vicki Finson, executive vice president of Blood Services. “But we’ve experienced a bigger dip than expected and when you add in the extra support needed from our blood supply as hospitals work through massive lists of delayed surgical patients with a sharp slowdown of people booking appointments to give blood then we have a very serious situation.”

There is a special need for O, A, and B negative blood types and platelets, but all types are welcomed. Type O is the most common type in the Pacific Northwest, accounting for 48% of the population. Type O negative blood is the universal blood type that can be transfused to any patient suffering from trauma when they are rushed to a hospital and there is no time to type their blood.

Donating blood takes less an hour from check-in to post donation cookie, and you do not need to know your blood type to book an appointment. Bloodworks urges past and first time donors to schedule an appointment at one of our 12 [Donor Centers](#) and [Pop-Up locations](#) near to where they live or work. Appointments can be made online at [schedule.bloodworksnw.org](https://schedule.bloodworksnw.org) or by calling 1-800-398-7888. More information at [www.bloodworksnw.org](http://www.bloodworksnw.org)

Anyone who donates blood can [enter to win](#) one-of-a-kind culinary prizes as part of Bloodworks’ [Savor Life. Save a Life campaign](#), such as the April prize of a market-to-table

cooking tour for six, which Chef Traci Calderon will lead through Pike Place Market, followed by an interactive cooking experience in the Atrium Kitchen. The winner and their guests will also receive a Pike Place Market gift basket and a one-night stay at The State Hotel (in up to three rooms).

**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. Washington: 16 or 17 year olds donating in Washington must have a signed Bloodworks Northwest permission form. Oregon: 16 or 17 year olds donating in Oregon do not require a Bloodworks permission form unless requested by the donor group. Check out [our detailed eligibility Q&A](#) or call us at 800-398-7888. *Masks and appointments required.*

**About Bloodworks Northwest**

Donations with Bloodworks Northwest provide 95% of the lifesaving blood supply to hospitals in Western Washington and Oregon. Since 1944, Bloodworks has served the Pacific Northwest as the local, nonprofit, independent, volunteer-supported, and community based blood center and research institute. Bloodworks partners 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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