

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Blood supply drops to emergency levels**

*Collections down 25% due to heat wave, patient demand*

**Seattle, WA** – Bloodworks Northwest issued an urgent appeal for donors today after supplies fell to emergency levels – a one-day supply or less. Normal inventory is a four-day supply. For the safety and care of patients, Bloodworks has issued a “code-red” alert -- urging blood donations now and through the next two weeks.

“In the aftermath of the heat wave our inventories have fallen by nearly 25%,” said James P. AuBuchon, MD, president and CEO of Bloodworks. “Prolonged high temperatures and poor air quality kept donors at home, and for many blood types we are now looking at empty shelves.” (media: photos attached)

“With the solar eclipse on Monday and with up to 1 million people converging on Oregon and Southwest Washington, we need to be ready,” AuBuchon noted. “Responding to emergencies requires blood that is already collected, tested, on the shelves and ready for immediate use.” Only a four-day inventory allows us to respond immediately to emergencies, or to a dramatic increase in needs from local patients.

Type O -- which is the most common blood type in the Northwest -- is being shipped to hospitals almost as soon as it is collected. People receiving emergency room care have also made extra demands on the tight supply.

“All regions of the US are currently experiencing a shortage, so assistance from other centers is minimal,” AuBuchon said. “We’re relying on local donors to help us respond to this emergency.”

Bloodworks is asking donors who have not donated recently to schedule an appointment as soon as possible at one of its 12 centers. There is a special need for Type O blood and for platelets, but all donors are needed.

Donors can schedule an appointment at any [donor center](#) by going online at [schedule.bloodworksnw.org](http://schedule.bloodworksnw.org) or by calling 1-800-398-7888. People can also check online at [bloodworksnw.org](http://bloodworksnw.org) to find dates and times of mobile drives close to where they live or work.

Blood collections usually fall by 15-20 percent during summer -- with schools and colleges on break and donors on vacation. But the need for blood is often higher in summer from patients



undergoing surgeries, ERs treating trauma victims, people having cancer treatment and surgeons performing organ transplants. It takes about 800 donors a day to maintain a sufficient supply for the nearly 100 Northwest hospitals served by Bloodworks.

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### **BloodworksNW Donor Centers**

- [Bellevue Center](#)  
1807 132nd Avenue NE  
Bellevue, WA 98005  
425-453-4011
- [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  
Suite 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
- [Lane Blood Center](#)  
2211 Willamette St  
Eugene, OR 97405  
541-484-9111



### **About BloodworksNW**

Bloodworks (formerly Puget Sound Blood Center) is backed by 70 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 in more than 90 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. For more information, visit [bloodworksnw.org](http://bloodworksnw.org)