

For Immediate Release



Date: 29 June 2020

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Donors needed to stock the shelves for local patients amid blood shortage

Bloodworks Northwest issuing urgent appeal for donors after inventories dip sharply

Seattle, WA — Bloodworks Northwest is bracing for a severe summer blood shortage that could limit local trauma centers access to blood, so they're ramping up their appeal for blood donations of all blood types. Anyone who donates between June 29 – July 11 gets a [\\$20 grocery gift card](#) for stocking the shelves for local patients.

"Summer is always a challenging time for blood collection and now with the pandemic reducing donations, the supply is already at the point where inventories of the most-needed blood types are fast approaching critical and emergency levels – meaning a severe blood shortage is ahead of us without community action," said Curt Bailey, Bloodworks Northwest President and CEO. "The availability of an adequate blood supply is crucial for the care and safety of patients at our hospitals and trauma centers and must be replenished. The community must not wait to [make appointments](#) to donate in the days and weeks ahead."

Blood centers throughout the country are reporting inventories falling to their lowest levels since the early stages of the pandemic as the nation's hospitals resume elective surgeries. Locally, Bloodworks is anticipating a shortfall of 6,000 donations through the July Fourth holiday due to low donor turnout. A shortage this large could impact the availability of blood to the hospitals and trauma centers.

"During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, many surgeries were cancelled or postponed and the healthcare system is now working hard to catch up," said Dr. Eileen Bulger, Harborview Trauma Surgeon. "In addition, emergency surgery for serious injuries can't be postponed and the summer season is the busiest time for our Level 1 Trauma center at Harborview Medical Center. We rely on blood donors and Bloodworks Northwest to ensure that we have the life-saving blood products needed at this critical time."

Bloodworks has perks for people who donate a pint in July at any Bloodworks Donor Center or Pop-Up location, to help end the shortage. Donors who give between June 29 – July 11 will receive a \$20 grocery gift card. All donors in July will be automatically entered into the [Pump It Up Sweepstakes](#) for a chance to win a Peloton Bike. So far, response has been encouraging, but Bloodworks is concerned that the

upcoming July Fourth Weekend will 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.

First-time and repeat donors are urged to make their one-hour donation [appointment](#) today as a safe and essential action to support local patients. There is no inherent risk of getting coronavirus from the donation procedure itself, but Bloodworks follows all CDC and local health guidelines and is taking extra precautions to protect staff and donors, including requiring donation appointments, continuous sanitation, prohibiting guests, and asking donors to bring a mask/face covering to their donation. Bloodworks has posted information addressing questions and concerns for blood donors at bloodworksnw.org/coronavirus. Blood donation takes about an hour from registration to post-donation refreshment. 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:

Appointments and information at BloodworksNW.org or 800-398-7888. See our list of [Pop-Up locations](#) at unique venues like CenturyLink Field, Paramount Theater, Bellevue Arts Museum, and more.

- [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, 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
- [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.