

For Immediate Release



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Excessive Heat Drops Blood Supply to Emergency Levels

Many blood donations canceled in Washington & Oregon, donations lost, patients to suffer

“The available blood supply is not enough to get us through a rapidly worsening situation that is changing by the hour.”

(June 28, 2021) SEATTLE – Due to record high temperatures, the Pacific Northwest’s blood supply has reached emergency levels this week and will worsen if donors do not make a concerted effort to donate. Blood drives scheduled for un-air-conditioned venues, such as community centers, have had to be cancelled and thus donations that would have contributed to the blood supply have been lost. When a blood donation venue reaches eighty degrees Fahrenheit, the mobile blood drive is canceled for the comfort and well-being of donors.

Every day it takes approximately 1,000 people registering to donate blood to maintain a safe and reliable blood supply for Western Washington and Oregon. When that number is not met consistently, as we are seeing in recent months, surgeries may have to be canceled and hospitals and clinics may not have the blood they need to treat victims of traumatic accidents, which increase during summer months and the Fourth of July weekend. [\[See New York Times Coverage of National Blood Crisis\]](#). In pre-COVID times, our supply would be able to recover from a crisis within a week from a strong response from our community. With reduced capacity due to social distancing, it will take weeks for our supply to recover.

“The available blood supply is not enough to get us through a rapidly worsening situation that is changing by the hour,” said Vicki Finson, Bloodworks Executive V.P. of Blood Services. “In the past 24 hours, we’ve lost 25% of our blood supply caused by 200 appointment cancellations and cancelled mobile blood drives due to the heat. We’ve already been asking hospitals to conserve blood to the point where doctors are needing to make decisions about who receives blood and who doesn’t, so this exacerbates an already serious situation. Our community needs everyone who is [eligible](#) to make an appointment and tell a friend about the urgent need for blood donations.”

Bloodworks Northwest urges donors to book appointments at one of their 12 air-conditioned donor centers or Pop-Up blood drives and donate to prevent a local crisis. Appointments can be made at bloodworksnw.org or by calling 800-398-7888.

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 blood drive locations](#).

- **Bellevue Center**
1807 132nd Avenue NE
Bellevue, WA 98005
425-453-4200
- **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.