

For Immediate Release



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Hurricane Ian Prompts Bloodworks Northwest to Send Emergency Shipment to Florida

Pacific Northwest donors urged to help

SEATTLE (September 26, 2022) — An emergency supply of 30 Type O units from Bloodworks Northwest donors will be shipped Monday to SunCoast Blood Centers in Florida in response to a request for help from the state, which is preparing for a powerful storm. As Hurricane Ian intensifies, shutting down blood collections, Bloodworks Northwest and its donors are helping Florida hospitals prepare for whatever impacts the weather may bring. Bloodworks Northwest is now asking local donors to help refill its Type O inventory — the blood type most needed in trauma situations — before more assistance can be offered.

“While our Type O supplies are tight, this is a need we must respond to,” said Bloodworks President and CEO Curt Bailey. “Florida is facing an extremely dangerous situation, and it’s critical we help them, just as they would help us in our own time of need.”

This shipment of O-positive blood is expected to arrive in Florida on Tuesday. Type O blood is the most critical blood type for supporting hospitals — so critical that a number of donation slots are reserved each day for donors with O-positive and O-negative blood types. Approximately 39% of the population has Type O-positive blood, and 9% has Type O-negative, the universal blood type.

It takes a thousand donors a day of all blood types to maintain a safe and reliable supply for unexpected emergencies and continued medical care in our region. Only 30% of the donors needed in October have booked appointments, leaving a gap of over 14,000 open appointments between now and Halloween. Donors in October play an important role in readying the blood supply for the busy holiday season.

Bloodworks recently added more appointment times at its [donor centers](#) and [pop-up blood drives](#) throughout the Pacific Northwest to make it even more convenient to give blood. New and repeat donors are urged to make their one-hour [appointments](#) today and do not need to know their blood type. Donors in October can [enter to win prizes](#), like an Apple Macbook Air; those who sign up to receive emails can receive gift card promotions.

About Donating Blood:

- Donating blood is a safe and essential action. Appointments, masks, and a photo ID are required. Information about [who can donate](#) and where is available at www.BloodworksNW.org.
- Most people in good health, who are at least 18 years old, and who weigh at least 110 lbs. can donate whole blood. Those aged 16 and 17 may donate in Washington with signed [Bloodworks permission form](#). In Oregon, anyone 16 or older can donate. Read this [detailed eligibility Q&A](#) or call 800-398-7888.

APPOINTMENTS: Bloodworks Donor Centers and Pop-Up Centers

Appointments and more information are available at BloodworksNW.org or 800-398-7888. See our list of [donor centers](#) and [pop-up blood drive locations](#), including our new donor center in Renton.

About Bloodworks Northwest

Donations to 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 a 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. Its 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 its services, expertise, laboratories and research. Blood donation appointments can be scheduled at BloodworksNW.org.

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