

For Immediate Release



Date: 29 December 2022

Contact: John Yeager | 425-765-9845 | JYeager@BloodworksNW.org
Karen Kirby | 206-689-6359 | karenk@bloodworksnw.org

Bloodworks Northwest Declares Code Red Emergency Blood Shortage
Blood is being transfused to patients faster than it's donated

Western Washington & Oregon Donors Needed to Book Appointments Immediately

(December 28, 2022, Seattle, WA) – Facing a severe blood shortage, [Bloodworks Northwest](#) is issuing a “Code Red” emergency asking everyone who is eligible and feeling healthy to fill immediate appointments to give blood. Donations dropped significantly due to winter weather and the holiday season. Hospitals are advised to conserve the limited onsite supplies to maintain a supply for emergencies, especially Type O blood and platelets. A Code Red is declared after four consecutive days of emergency levels. Donors in Western Washington and Oregon must respond to this emergency by booking and keeping appointments to donate every 56 days.

Bloodworks Northwest Executive Vice President of Blood Services Vicki Finson says, "A Code Red means we're running out of blood fast. Our community must act quickly to stabilize the blood supply and ensure patients experiencing cancer can receive transfusions, surgeries aren't delayed, and our trauma centers can respond to emergencies." Finson adds, "If you've been putting off donating blood, now is the time to make an appointment."

Same day blood donation appointments are available at most locations, and appointments in the next three weeks are just as vital. Right now, universal [Type O blood](#) is extremely important, especially for trauma and emergency situations when the patient's blood type is unknown. January is National Blood Donor Month, and with this blood shortage that is nothing short of a public health emergency, the importance of blood donors is keenly felt.

Facts:

- Over 6,300 open appointments left to be filled in next 12 days.

- Showing up for the donation appointment is just as important as making it. People not showing up to appointments impacts the ability to collect enough blood. For assistance finding an appointment or to reschedule, call 800-398-7888.
- All regions of the U.S. are currently experiencing a shortage, so assistance from other centers is uncertain or minimal.
- Responding to emergencies requires blood that is already collected, tested, on the shelves, and ready for immediate use by first responders and medical staff.
- 39% of the population has O+ blood, and only 9% of the population has O- blood. You do not need to know your blood type to become a blood donor. [Learn more](#).

Vicki Finson is available for interviews. Contact John Yeager jyeager@bloodworksnw.org or 425-765-9845

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. See website for ages 16 & 17. Masks and appointments required. Donors can donate blood ten days after COVID symptoms resolve, and COVID and Flu vaccinations do not affect your ability to donate blood. Check out [our detailed eligibility Q&A](#) or call us at 800-398-7888.
- It takes about an hour to give blood from check-in to post-donation cookie. Information about [who can donate](#) and where, is available at www.bloodworksnw.org.

Bloodworks Donor Centers and Blood Drives:

Appointments and information at BloodworksNW.org or 800-398-7888. See our list of [Donor Centers](#) and [Blood Drives](#).

About Bloodworks Northwest – About Bloodworks Northwest

Donations to Bloodworks Northwest provide lifesaving blood supply to 95% of Pacific Northwest hospitals. 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.