

For Immediate Release



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Snow Takes Toll on Local Blood Supply

Blood Supply at Critical Levels After 30% Drop in Donations Due to Weather
Our Community Needs Blood Donors

(December 1, 2022 – Seattle, WA) Bloodworks Northwest is urging the public to give blood or platelets in the wake of this week’s snowstorm, which led to a 30% decrease in donations. Hundreds of donors scheduled to donate Tuesday and Wednesday were unable to make their appointments and several blood drives had to be cancelled due to weather conditions. If you can safely travel, the community is encouraged to schedule appointments to stock the shelves for patients in December. All Bloodworks Northwest donor centers and many blood drives are open with same day appointments available.

“Donations are not keeping up with need, so inventory is dropping every day,” said Dr. Kirsten Alcorn, Co-Chief Medical Officer at Bloodworks Northwest.

Here’s the impact the snow and ice is having on our local blood supply right now:

- In the past 48 hours, over 600 appointments were canceled, rescheduled, or donors were unable to come in for their appointment. We expect this to increase as the wintery weather continues with additional snowfall and ice expected in some areas. 25% of our appointments for Thursday have already canceled or rescheduled.
- Our Type O supply is 800 units below operational levels leaving us with less than an emergency one-day supply of transfusable units.
- Over 600 open appointments this week; 2,100 open appointments next week.
- It takes 1,000 donors a day to support patients at Pacific Northwest hospitals.
- Same day appointments available at Bloodworks Northwest donor centers and blood drives.
- Critical for donors to make appointments to donate within the next 10 days
- Appointments required at www.bloodworksnw.org or 800-398-7888

Regardless of the weather, there is an ongoing need for blood to help cancer patients, victims of traumatic injuries, and many others who require transfusion support. Donations with Bloodworks provide 95% of the lifesaving blood supply to Pacific Northwest hospitals. It takes

about an hour to give blood from check-in to post-donation cookie. Appointments and masks are required. Information about [who can donate](#) and where, is available at www.bloodworksnw.org. Donors can donate blood ten days after COVID symptoms resolve, and COVID and Flu vaccinations do not affect your ability to donate blood.

All donors in December are eligible to [enter to win](#) donation perks like a VIP GRAMMY Award Experience or 75" big screen TV.

Bloodworks Donor Centers and Pop-Up Centers:

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

About Bloodworks Northwest

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