

**For Immediate Release**



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## **Community Blood Supply Crippled by Snow, Ice, and Freezing Temperatures Critical Need for Donations Through New Years to Avoid Emergency**

*Loss of 1,600 scheduled donations since Monday due to cancelled drives, appointments*

**(December 22, 2022 – Seattle, WA)** Bloodworks Northwest is urging the public to take one hour to give blood before the end of the year as the blood supply slips closer to emergency levels and threatening the availability of blood for patients during this holiday season. Blood and platelet donors are desperately needed before the end of the year to make up for the hundreds of donations missed due to snow and icy conditions. With more freezing temperatures in the forecast, Bloodworks officials are concerned about the rapid and dangerous drop in blood supply.

“Snow and icy road conditions caused the cancellation of hundreds of lifesaving appointments,” said Bloodworks Executive Vice President of Blood Services Vicki Finson. “Our community urgently needs you to make an appointment to donate and help return inventory to safe and reliable levels.”

Bloodworks Northwest sought assistance from other parts of the country to help make up for the sudden shortfall in appointments during a busy time for local hospitals. More than 1,600 scheduled appointments had to be cancelled due to weather conditions. Anyone who can safely travel in the community is encouraged to schedule appointments to stock the shelves for patients. All Bloodworks Northwest donor centers and many blood drives are open with same-day appointments available.

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

- In the past 48 hours, over 1,600 appointments were canceled, rescheduled, or donors were unable to come in for their appointment. We expect this to increase as the winter weather continues.
- Our Type O supply is nearly 1,000 units below optimal levels leaving us with less than an emergency one-day supply of transfusable units.
- 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](http://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 lifesaving blood supply to 95% of 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](http://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](http://BloodworksNW.org) or 800-398-7888. See our list of [Donor Centers](#) and [Blood Drives](#).

#### **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](http://BloodworksNW.org).*

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