

For Immediate Release



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Emergency Blood Shortage Prompts Code Red Alert

Less than half of the donations needed to supply local hospitals

Western Washington & Oregon Urged to Book Appointments to Donate Blood

(January 5, 2026)—Local blood donations have fallen sharply, creating a severe blood shortage, prompting [Bloodworks Northwest](#) to declare a “Code Red” encouraging people to fill immediate appointments to give blood, especially Type O and platelets. Local hospitals rely on a steady blood supply for emergencies, surgeries, and lifesaving treatments, but current levels are dangerously low.

Over 29,700 appointment slots remain open through the end of January, and the need for donors to fill them is urgent. It takes 1,000 donors a day with Bloodworks to maintain the blood supply to 95% of the hospitals in Western Washington and Oregon. Bloodworks is providing hospitals with more Type O than is being donated locally. To meet hospital demand, Bloodworks has had to bring in blood from other parts of the country—a temporary and unsustainable solution, especially as shortages are being felt nationwide.

Only about 3% of people donate blood, yet if just 1% more stepped up, we could ease shortages and stabilize the supply. Code Red has been declared due to a less than one-to two-day supply of critical blood types and platelets. Without immediate action, the situation could become dire.

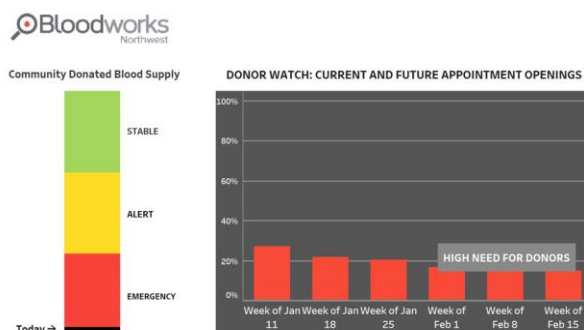


Image: Community Donated Blood Supply Forecast shows a high need for donors over the next six weeks.

“Every time someone rolls up their sleeve to donate at a Bloodworks center or drive, they’re giving more than a pint of blood—they’re giving hope to critically ill and injured people in the Pacific Northwest,” said Bloodworks President and CEO Curt Bailey. “That single act can save multiple lives. It could be a child

fighting cancer, a parent recovering from surgery, or a neighbor injured in an accident. Right now, those lives depend on all of us giving life together.”

Right now, universal [Type O blood](#) is extremely important, especially for trauma and emergency situations when the patient’s blood type is unknown. About 39% of the population has Type O Positive blood, while only 9% has Type O Negative blood. You do not need to know your blood type to donate blood.

Community blood drives play a vital role in providing convenient places to donate. Approximately 63% of blood is donated at Bloodworks’ 14 donor centers. About 37% of blood donations come from community blood drives hosted by schools, businesses, and other community-based organizations. More groups are needed to [host drives](#) in the coming months from Eugene to Bellingham, from Gresham to Forest Grove, and from Snoqualmie to Port Angeles—especially in Eugene, Gresham, and Tacoma.

January is *National Blood Donor Month*, underscoring the importance of community blood donors. Same-day appointments are available at most locations. Appointments can be made at www.bloodworksnw.org or by calling 800-398-7888.

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. Donors can donate blood ten days after COVID symptoms resolve, and COVID, RSV, 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.
- More people than ever are eligible to donate blood. The FDA’s previous donor eligibility criteria based on sexual orientation, which made it challenging for gay and bisexual men to donate blood, has been eliminated. [See update](#).
- It takes about an hour to give blood from check-in to post-donation cookie. Actual donation time is about 10 minutes or less. Information about [blood types](#), [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 map](#) of Donor Centers and Blood Drives near you.

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. 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. 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. Hear lifesaving stories on the [Bloodworks 101 Podcast](#). Blood donation appointments can be scheduled at BloodworksNW.org.