



Oct 18, 2023

Media Contact:

Maya Harney, Media Spokesperson

(541)-914-5329

mharney@uoregon.edu

Local Organization Calls for Urgent Need of Blood Donations to Save Lives

EUGENE, Ore. – Bloodworks Northwest, an independent, nonprofit organization that provides blood supply to 95% of hospitals in the pacific northwest, calls for desperate need of blood donations this fall to save lives following the blood shortage caused by the pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a significant and detrimental impact on the availability of blood and blood products. Hospitals and blood donation centers face critical shortages following the pandemic and heading into winter months, which could severely compromise patient care and response efforts. Bloodworks, committed to ensuring safe and sufficient blood supply, issues a heartfelt plea for support from the community.

“We had already been having difficulties getting a sufficient number of donors, and recently we’ve seen a truly overwhelming number of patients in need of blood following the pandemic and have been struggling to get enough donations to help everyone in need,” says Lisa Ballenger, Vice President, Donor Services of Bloodworks. “This shortage is detrimental to so many patients and families. We sincerely urge you to give up an hour of your time to save the lives of many.”

Though each blood donation has the potential to save up to three lives, it has a limited shelf life that lasts only 5-7 days for platelets and 42 days for red blood cells. This short window is the reason 1,000 donors a day are needed to maintain the blood supply for the 90 hospitals Bloodworks supports in the Northwest.

“As a mother, it is so hard to see your child in pain,” says Terri Williams, mother of a patient at Bloodworks. “The pandemic was especially hard on those who are immunocompromised, like my daughter, and they are still suffering the effects of the pandemic. I’m forever grateful to Bloodworks for supplying my daughter with the blood she needed but am so heartbroken for the families who are unable to get any due to the shortage. It’s all really terrifying.”



Blood donations to Bloodworks are directly taken for transfusion to patients in need and help a variety of serious, life-threatening medical conditions including trauma care for people in accidents, surgeries, organ transplants, people receiving treatment for cancer, bleeding disorders, blood diseases, immune system conditions, and more. Blood donations have always been crucial, as these conditions occur every day and there are constantly patients in need, but Bloodworks emphasizes the need for donation during these trying times following the pandemic.

“Though we heavily focus on the scientific and medical aspect of our organization, we cannot properly and effectively function without highlighting the community aspect revolving around Bloodworks. Being independent and a non-profit, this organization was built off the need for communities to come together and literally save one another. Donating blood, in my opinion, is one of the easiest ways to be a hero,” says Ballenger.

The process of donating blood is both safe and easy; donors are asked to fill out a health questionnaire, meet with a staff member for a short screening interview and physical examination, discuss donation options for your blood type, and simply sit back as a medical professional collects your donation. The entire process typically takes around 1-2 hours to complete, and afterwards donors are given a snack and refreshments. You can donate at a center or one of Bloodworks’ many mobile drives.

Bloodworks Northwest

Bloodworks is a non-profit blood donation center and research institute based in the Pacific Northwest and is dedicated to serving communities in need by ensuring a safe, reliable, and sustainable blood supply. With a strong commitment to public health, research, and innovation, Bloodworks plays a pivotal role in healthcare, providing vital blood and blood products for medical treatments and emergencies. For more information, visit www.bloodworksnw.org.