

**For Immediate Release**



**Date:** 17 September 2021

**Contact:** John Yeager | 425-765-9845 | [JYeager@BloodworksNW.org](mailto:JYeager@BloodworksNW.org)  
Karen Kirby | 206-689-6359 | [karenk@bloodworksnw.org](mailto:karenk@bloodworksnw.org)

## **Bloodworks Northwest says Western Washington & Oregon Blood and Platelet supply drops 40%**

**Local donors needed to recover blood supply during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month**

**Nearly 1/3 of all blood donations support children and adults with cancer**

*Concern grows there will not be enough blood for our community's sickest patients*

**(September 17, 2021) SEATTLE** – [Christine O'Connell](#) will never forget St. Patrick's Day 2017, the day she received the shocking news that her three-year-old daughter Jane had stage IV kidney cancer that had already spread to both lungs, lymph nodes, and spine. Jane is now four years cancer-free thanks to the help of local blood donors who supported Jane and pediatric patients like her by giving blood. Today, concern from Bloodworks Northwest grows that there will not be enough blood for our community's sickest patients.

**WHAT:** In the past week, the Pacific Northwest's blood supply has lost 40% of its inventory as 1,500 donation appointments are canceled – the equivalent of 30% of needed weekly appointments – making it difficult to fill last minute and putting the local blood and platelet inventory dangerously low during a time of high patient need.

**Media coverage is vital to inform donors of need and Bloodworks donation locations.**

**WHY:** Due to increase in hospital demand and likely covid quarantine related appointment cancellations:

- 10-20% of platelet appointments are being canceled with less than a 24-hour notice putting patients with cancer or victims of trauma at risk
- 700 open platelet appointments in September
- The short five-day shelf life of platelets means the need for donations is continuous
- Over 2,000 open whole blood donation appointments (the traditional way to give blood) in the next two weeks

- While hospitals have delayed non-emergency surgeries due to limited beds, demand for blood is higher than at pre-pandemic levels.

Because of the above:

- Not enough platelets available to support local hospital needs
- Type O inventory is at emergency low levels - 900 units below a safe and reliable three-to-four-day supply that must be ready for transfusion when illness or accidents strike
- Type A negative and B negative hovering at critical or low levels
- In pre-COVID times, our supply would be able to recover from a crisis within a week from a strong response from our community. With reduced capacity due to social distancing, it will take weeks for our supply to recover.

**WHEN:** Immediately in September and October  
September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and Blood Cancer Awareness Month

**WHERE:** Bloodworks Northwest [Donor Centers](#) or [Pop-Up Community Blood Drives](#).

**HOW:** Appointments can be made at [bloodworksnw.org](http://bloodworksnw.org) or by calling 800-398-7888. Masks and appointments required. Same day appointments available. There is no deferral from donating if you receive the COVID vaccine. See [COVID-19](#) safety measures.

**WHO:** Anyone who is [eligible to donate](#) should book an appointment in the immediate days and weeks ahead. It is not necessary to know your blood type to donate.

As we head into new back-to-school routines and a rise in COVID-19 cases, it is imperative that donors know the need, as well as where they can donate in the days and weeks ahead. Blood donation remains a [safe and essential action](#) with Bloodworks operating under strict COVID-19 cleaning and safety protocols such as masks and appointments to meet community needs and keep everyone safe.

### **Bloodworks Donor Centers and Pop-Up Blood Drives:**

Appointments and information at [BloodworksNW.org](http://BloodworksNW.org) or 800-398-7888. See our list of [Donor Centers](#) and [Pop-Up blood drive locations](#) this month.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bellevue Center</b><br/>1807 132nd Avenue NE<br/>Bellevue, WA 98005<br/>425-453-4200</li> <li>• <b>Bellingham Center</b><br/>410 W Bakerview Rd., Suite 117<br/>Bellingham, WA 98226<br/>360-671-8848</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Olympia Center</b><br/>1220 Eastside Street SE<br/>Olympia, WA 98501<br/>360-596-3950</li> <li>• <b>North Seattle Center</b><br/>10357 Stone Avenue N.<br/>Seattle, WA 98133<br/>206-526-1970</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

- **Central Seattle**  
921 Terry Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104  
206-292-6500
- **Everett Center**  
2703 Oakes Avenue  
Everett, WA 98201  
425-740-2909
- **Federal Way Center**  
1414 S 324TH Street, B101  
Federal Way, WA 98003  
253-945-8660
- **Lynnwood Center**  
19723 Highway 99, Suite F  
Lynnwood, WA 98036  
425-412-1000
- **Silverdale Center**  
3230 NW Randall Way  
Silverdale, WA 98383  
360-308-7340
- **Tukwila Center**  
130 Andover Park E  
Tukwila, WA 98188  
206-241-6300
- **Vancouver, WA Donor Center**  
9320 NE Vancouver Mall Blvd., Suite100  
Vancouver, WA 98662  
360-567-4800
- **Eugene, OR Center**  
2211 Willamette St  
Eugene, OR 97405  
541-484-9111

**About Bloodworks Northwest** – Bloodworks Northwest is backed by 75 years of Northwest history and 250,000 donors. It is local, nonprofit, independent, volunteer-supported and community-based. A recognized leader in transfusion medicine, Bloodworks serves patients at hospitals in Washington, Oregon, and Alaska — partnering closely with local hospitals to deliver the highest level of patient care. 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 our services, expertise, laboratories and research. Blood donation appointments can be scheduled at [bloodworksnw.org](http://bloodworksnw.org).

###