

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



New York Blood Center Declares Blood Emergency

NYBC urges public to donate at blood drives, centers or mobile units to replenish the community's critically low blood supply.

New York, NY (June 15, 2016) – New York Blood Center (NYBC) has declared a blood emergency and is asking the public to donate blood at a nearby drive, NYBC center or mobile unit to help replenish the community's blood supply. Recent national tragedies are reminders that it is imperative for NYBC to always have an adequately stocked blood supply to respond when communities are faced with patient traumas or other events that require life-saving blood products.

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church
EMERGENCY BLOOD SHORTAGE BLOOD DRIVE
Sunday, August 28, 2016
9:15AM – 3:15PM
72-55 Austin Street, Forest Hills
Location: Mobile Bus

In order to maintain a safe blood supply a seven-day inventory of all types must be continually replenished. Companies, organizations, and community groups are encouraged to donate or host their own blood drives to help rebuild the blood stock – NYBC's staff can help each step of the way.

O negative blood donors are considered "universal," and their blood type is needed most readily in trauma situations and emergency rooms across the country. Due to its high demand, O negative blood is in short supply and NYBC encourages individuals with this blood type to consider stepping forward and donate today. Our local blood supply has reached a critically low level, with under a two-day supply of O negative, B negative, and A negative.

As we head into the summer months, we are reminded of how essential it is that our community maintain steady participation in blood donation. Preparation for events such as these — having blood on hospital shelves in advance — is key to potentially save lives.

"By spreading the word or even hosting your own blood drive, inviting friends, family, and community organizations, you may save lives in your community," said Andrea Cefarelli, Executive Director of NYBC. "We are in dire need of O negative blood with a reserve that is currently below a two day supply, and that is just too low."

Historically, during the summer months, blood centers have had to focus on building up the community's blood product supply, as it tends to diminish due to seasonal factors. While summer months are marked by a long vacation period, with schools in recess and leisure time, the need for blood never takes a vacation. NYBC urges individuals to seek out nearby blood donation centers and to engage in the selfless act of donating, helping to prevent a summer blood shortage and

potentially saving the life of someone in need.

More About Blood Donations

The entire donation process takes less than an hour and a single donation can be used to save multiple lives. Donors with O-negative blood type, or “universal donors,” are especially encouraged to donate, as their blood can be used in emergencies. Nearly 2,000 donations are needed each day in New York and New Jersey alone. About one in seven hospital admissions requires a blood transfusion, and with a limited shelf life, supplies must be continually replenished.

If you cannot donate but still wish to participate in bringing crucial blood products to patients in need, please ask someone to donate for you, or consider volunteering at a local blood drive.

Any company, community organization, place of worship, or individual may host a blood drive. Blood donors receive free mini-medical exams on site including information about their temperature, blood pressure and hematocrit level. Eligible donors include those people at least age 16 (parental consent is required for 16-year-olds), who weigh a minimum of 110 pounds, are in good health and meet all Food & Drug Administration and NY or NJ State Department of Health donor criteria. People age 76 or older may donate if they have a doctor’s note on file with New York Blood Center or if they bring one on the day of the blood drive.

About New York Blood Center

Now more than 50 years old, New York Blood Center (NYBC) is a nonprofit organization that is one of the largest independent, community-based blood centers in the country. NYBC’s mission is to serve the 20 million people in the New York metropolitan area — and more broadly, our nation and our world — by alleviating human suffering and preserving human life using our medical expertise.

Each year, NYBC provides approximately one million blood products to nearly 200 hospitals in the Northeast. NYBC also provides a wide array of transfusion-related medical services. NYBC’s National Cord Blood Program (NCBP) at the Howard P. Milstein Cord Blood Center is the home to the world’s largest public cord blood bank, which provides stem cells for transplant in many countries, and a renowned research institute, which — among other milestones — developed the hepatitis B vaccine and innovative blood purification technology. Website: nybc.org
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