



NEWS RELEASE

Americans Urged to Donate Blood in Aftermath of Winter Storms

WASHINGTON (February 8, 2019) — With multiple winter storms striking the U.S., America's Blood Centers is encouraging individuals in unaffected areas to remember the importance of donating. Donors are needed across the country to help make up for losses in regions impacted by the storms. All individuals who are eligible to donate, especially those with type O-positive blood, should schedule and keep donation appointments.

Historically, the nation's blood supply experiences lower inventory in January and February due to cold and flu season. Winter storms often close schools and businesses, while forcing the cancellation of blood drives. Blood centers across the U.S. are making every effort to meet the blood needs of all patients. It is important for blood donors in unaffected areas to give in the coming days and weeks for both immediate and future needs in the aftermath of these storms. Blood shortages are beginning to impact patient care and elective surgeries in some areas of the country.

"We are asking all potential donors, both current and first-timers, to make a commitment to donate blood or platelets as soon as possible," said Kate Fry, MBA chief executive officer of America's Blood Centers. "We thank all donors for their support and encourage all eligible individuals to give blood regularly to help ensure that blood is available whenever and wherever it is needed."

Those interested in donating blood may find their local community blood center at www.americasblood.org.

###

About America's Blood Centers

Founded in 1962, [America's Blood Centers](http://www.americasblood.org) is North America's largest network of community-based, independent blood programs. Recognized by the U.S. Congress for its critical work in patient care and disaster preparedness and response, the federation operates more than 600 blood donor centers providing half of the U.S., and a quarter of the Canadian blood supply.

These blood centers serve more than 150 million people and provide blood products and services to more than 3,500 hospitals and healthcare facilities across North America. America's Blood Centers' U.S. members are licensed and regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Canadian members are regulated by Health Canada.