



News Release

STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

URGENT

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STANFORD BLOOD CENTER IS CRITICALLY LOW OF TYPE O NEGATIVE BLOOD

STANFORD, Calif. —**Stanford Blood Center is critically low in type O negative blood** and needs eligible people to donate this week to meet local needs. Unusually high demand has depleted O negative supplies. Today, a patient undergoing heart surgery used what little O negative blood Stanford Blood Center had in its inventory. Currently, the Blood Center has no units of O negative on its shelves.

“Stanford Blood Center was able to meet the needs of current patients but our critical need for O negative blood prevents us from being able to respond to the next emergency,” said spokesperson Michele Hyndman. “We have exhausted our list of donors with phone calls and emails and need people in the public to respond this week to get us through this crisis.”

Approximately half of Stanford Blood Center’s supply of O negative blood is designated for neonatal patients. The remaining supply is used for emergency patients and O negative patients. O negative is the universal blood type and can be given to anyone in an emergency situation.

Eligible people of all blood types are encouraged to donate at one of Stanford Blood Center’s locations in Mountain View and Palo Alto, or at blood drives that are held throughout the Bay Area daily. Stanford Blood Center is also below minimum inventory in types O positive, A negative, A positive, B negative and AB negative.

Donors can call (650) 723-7831 or toll-free (888) 723-7831 to make an appointment, learn hours of operation and get directions. Donors should be in good health with no cold or flu symptoms. They must eat well prior to donation, drink fluids and present photo identification at the time of donation. The process takes about an hour. For more information or to schedule an appointment online, please visit <http://bloodcenter.stanford.edu>.

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Stanford University Medical Center integrates research, medical education and patient care at its three institutions — Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford Hospital & Clinics and Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital at Stanford. For more information, please visit the Web site of the medical center’s Office of Communication & Public Affairs at <http://mednews.stanford.edu>.