

United Blood Services Press Release

UNITED BLOOD SERVICES ISSUES CRITICAL PUBLIC APPEAL FOR DONORS OF ALL TYPES

1-877-UBS-HERO (827-4376) or www.BloodHero.com (Enter Your City)

June 7, 2016 – Statewide Arizona – Patient transfusion rates have surged 13% above normal levels, forcing United Blood Services to issue a critical public appeal for blood donors of all types. This, combined with plummeting donations since the Memorial Day holiday, has created an extra strain on an already lean blood supply. This morning, reserves of blood were depleted to 42% below required levels, leaving a 1.5-day supply on the shelves. Since it takes 24 to 36 hours to test and process each donation before it can be released for a patient, blood is being transfused as fast as United Blood Services can provide it to hospitals. Donors of all types are urgently needed to give blood now. For an appointment, call 1-877-UBS-HERO ([1-877-827-4376](tel:1-877-827-4376)) toll free or visit www.BloodHero.com (enter your Zip Code – *Donor Center locations detailed below*).

In addition, 60 hospital orders remain unfilled for Type O blood. In emergency situations when there is no time to determine a patient's blood type, doctors depend on Type O blood to sustain life until the patient can be stabilized. An ample supply gives transfusion options when shortages of other blood types arise.

- **O-Negative, the universal blood donor** . . . 6% of the population has O-negative blood, but 100% of patients can receive O-negative transfusions. O-negative makes up 12% - 14% of all red blood cell transfusions in Arizona.
- **O-Positive, the most commonly transfused blood type** . . . 37% of the population has O-positive blood, but 85% of patients can receive O-positive transfusions. O-positive makes up 42% of all red blood cell transfusions in Arizona.

Out-of-state resources to meet local patient blood needs have been exhausted since blood centers across the country are still recovering from the decline in donations over the Memorial Day holiday. United Blood Services is the non-profit community blood provider that supplies 100% of the transfusion needs for every hospital in 11 of 15 Arizona counties, including Maricopa. Approximately 500 blood donors are needed every day to meet the transfusion needs of patients in the 64 Arizona hospitals depending upon United Blood Services. To accommodate space for additional donors, United Blood Services has extended hours and added staff to many locations.

"Every 2-to-3 seconds in this country, someone needs blood. And you never know when you or someone you love will be the one. We all expect blood to be available when we need it, but only a few of those who can give actually roll up their sleeves," said Audrey Jennings, District Director of Field Operations for United Blood Services/Arizona. "If you are eligible to donate blood, please give now!"