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**SAN DIEGO BLOOD BANK ISSUES URGENT CALL FOR
O POSITIVE BLOOD DONATIONS**

Nationwide Shortage Continues - Uncommon This Time of Year

SAN DIEGO (October 5, 2021) San Diego Blood Bank is issuing an urgent call for blood donations, particularly from type O positive donors, as supply across the country has reached dangerously low levels – an uncommon occurrence for this time of year.

With the recent COVID-19 case surge and continued spreading of the Delta variant, San Diego Blood Bank and other blood centers across the country are experiencing abnormal decline in donor turn out. Additionally, mobile blood drives normally hosted by schools and businesses continue to be cancelled. These collection challenges have disrupted the nation's blood supply, resulting in concerning low inventories of blood products for patients in need.

“All types are needed, but San Diego Blood Bank’s average monthly supply of O positive blood is the lowest it’s been in over a decade” said Claudine Van Gonka, Director of Community Relations & Marketing. “It is critical that we stabilize our blood supply so hospitals are not forced to alter treatment for some patients or cancel surgeries.”

In addition to donations, San Diego Blood Bank needs individuals, schools, business, and other community organizations to host blood drives. To date, SDBB has a 3-day or less supply of most blood types on the shelves. A 7–10-day supply is considered ample.

To be eligible to donate blood, you must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 114 pounds, and be in general good health. Eligible blood donors are encouraged to schedule an appointment at SanDiegoBloodBank.org or calling 619-400-8251.

About the San Diego Blood Bank

SDBB is dedicated to community health by providing a reliable supply of blood to patients in need. Our vision is to further ensure the health of our community by simultaneously delivering related health and wellness education and services and extending into research. SDBB is an independent, 501(c)(3) non-profit that serves hospitals in San Diego, Orange, Imperial and Los Angeles counties with blood transfusion products and reference laboratory services. SDBB currently operates eight local donor centers and 10 bloodmobiles. SDBB’s Cell Therapy Program provides lifesaving stem cell transplants to patients worldwide. For more information about SDBB, visit www.SanDiegoBloodBank.org or connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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