



Severe blood shortage: donors needed now!

New pandemic effects lead to significant drop in nation's blood supply

The American Red Cross is experiencing a severe blood shortage. The number of trauma cases, organ transplants, and elective surgeries continues to rise—and deplete the nation's blood inventory. Donors of all blood types, especially type O and those giving platelets, are urged to give to prevent further impact to patients.

Right now, hospitals are responding to an atypically high number of traumas and emergency room visits, as well as overdoses and resulting transplants. The demand from trauma centers has climbed 10%, more than five times the growth of other facilities that provide blood transfusions.

There is also great demand for blood as people who deferred care during the pandemic present with more advanced disease progression, requiring increased blood transfusions. Over the last three months, the Red Cross has distributed about 75,000 more blood products than expected. As a result, some hospitals are forced to slow the pace of elective surgeries until the blood supply stabilizes. Blood is perishable and cannot be stockpiled, so it must constantly be replenished by generous blood donors.

When seconds count in emergency trauma situations, it's the blood already on the shelves that can make the difference in lifesaving care. As people begin to enjoy travel and time with loved ones again this summer, patients are relying on the generosity of donors to help ensure they have access to the treatment they need. Please consider blood donation as a summer activity that can help save lives.

Donors are urged to make an appointment to give blood or platelets now. In most cases, those who have received a COVID-19 vaccine can donate. However, knowing the name of the manufacturer of the vaccine they received is important in determining donation eligibility.

You can schedule an appointment to give blood by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org), calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767), or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.



American Red Cross

Save a Life. Give Blood.

World Sickle Cell Day: June 19

June 19 was World Sickle Cell Day, an important day for the more than 100,000 individuals with sickle cell disease in the U.S. Most people with this disease are of African descent and will require

regular blood transfusions to help manage their disease. Some individuals with sickle cell disease may require as many as 100 units of blood per year.

The Red Cross is screening all blood, platelet, and plasma donations from self-identified African American donors for the sickle cell trait. This additional screening provides Black donors with additional health insight and helps the Red Cross identify compatible blood types more quickly. Because the best blood match for a patient receiving ongoing transfusions comes from donors of the same genetic background, the Red Cross encourages people of all ethnicities to give blood and help increase the number of diverse donors so we can find the best match for all patients.

Blood drive safety

The Red Cross has updated its pandemic safety protocols in alignment with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions—including social distancing and facemasks for donors and staff—have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at a drive.


Fully vaccinated individuals, including staff and donors, no longer need to wear masks or socially distance. Unvaccinated individuals continue to be required to wear masks and socially distance.

Don't wait to give

Donors can also save up to 15 minutes at a blood drive by completing a RapidPass®. Donors complete the pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of donation, from a mobile device or computer. To complete a RapidPass®, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Red Cross Blood Donor App.



To donate blood, individuals need to bring a blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification that are required at check-in. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also must meet certain height and weight requirements.

A white ice cream cup with a red rim, decorated with several red hearts of different sizes. It is shown at an angle.

Give a Pint, Get a Pint!

The American Red Cross of Southeastern Massachusetts is thrilled to partner with local ice cream shops in Norfolk, Plymouth, Bristol, and Barnstable counties for “Give a Pint, Get a Pint” this July.

From July 1–31, blood donors at various drives throughout Southeastern Massachusetts receive a voucher for a **free pint of ice cream.**

“Covid-19 has presented blood collection challenges. This promotion encourages and appreciates our regular blood donors with a sweet treat, and shines a spotlight on the critical need for a constant blood supply throughout the summer. It also educates the community on the incredible impact of each pint donation,” said Barbara Cotton, Executive Director, American Red Cross, Southeastern MA Chapter.

annual meeting recaps?

2021 Volunteer Awards

Congratulations to the **2021 Volunteers of the Year** and **Years of Service** honorees. These outstanding Red Crossers have broken the mold—gone above and beyond this year—taking the pandemic challenges in stride and never slowing down. Thank you for your service to the Red Cross mission.

Volunteers of the Year 2021

Biomedical Services: Rachel Plukas
Boston Food Pantry: Kien Lang and Sika Somberg
International Services: Luciana Vosniak and Dani Mayer
Operations: John Hodges
Service to the Armed Forces: Debra Andwood
Volunteer Services: Emily Farrin
Youth Programs: Katherine Li
Disaster Cycle Services:

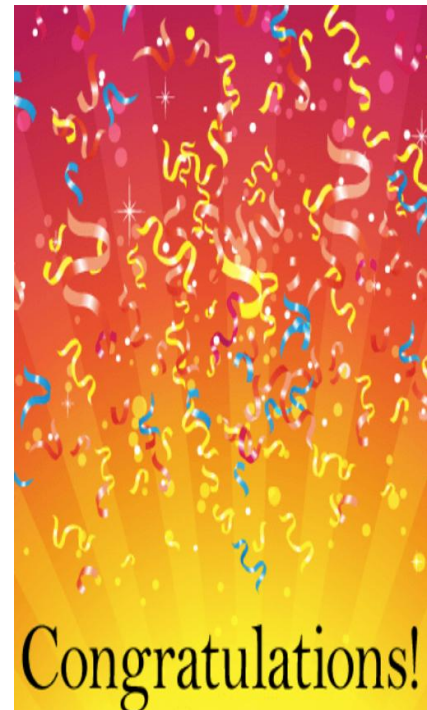
- Greater Boston: Brian Fitzpatrick
- Central: Jeanine Swick
- Northeast: Ken Boyajian
- Southeast: Pam Clute
- West: Julie Kraus

Diversity and Inclusion Champion

- Greater Boston: Ana Gallagher
- Central-West: Jeffrey Swaim
- Northeast: Dr. Teo Pique
- Southeast: Sidney Murray

“Consider It Done!” Award

- Greater Boston: Dusya Lyubovskaya
- Central-West: Jim Mosso and Evelyn Sullivan
- Northeast: Charlie Vose
- Southeast: John Crooks



Years Of Service Recognition

45 Years of Service

Greater Boston: John Hodges

40 Years of Service

Northeast: Jonathan Goldfield

35 Years of Service

Southeast: Frank O’Laughlin

25 Years of Service

Northeast: Janet Brings

20 Years of Service

Greater Boston: Beth Whitlock

Central-West: Trudy Epstein, Linda Russell, Shira Stern, Christine Tebaldi

Southeast: Dianne Van Der Veen

15 Years of Service

Greater Boston: Sandra Jones

Central-West: Irene Chiarvalloti, Bobby Joe Hill, Aparna Kachoria, Dorothy Murray

Northeast: Shannon Devoe, Louise Vose

Southeast: Louise Graham, Anthony Lessa, Eric Pruyne, Barry Rector, Anne Williams

10 Years of Service

Greater Boston: Jhillika Patel

Central-West: John Argitis, Marilyn Elek, Judy Marcinowski, Tim Nelson, Michael Patashnick, David Rothschild, Evelyn Sullivan, Bonnie Willand

Northeast: Karyn Hidden

Southeast: Janette Beal, William Fleming, Nancy Walsh

5 Years of Service

Greater Boston: Stephen Coady, Kristin Collins, Marianne Kimball, Kathryn Moffat, Jonathan O'Neill, Peter Preble, Phieng Siliphaivanh

Central-West: Daniel Amuso, Jean Aponte, Rich Cayer, Yasaman Khorsandian, Julie Kraus, Pamela Little, Cheryl Murray

Southeast: Shawn Curran, Jamey Ellis, Suzanne Govaki, Natalia Mariano, Fred Meade, David Phipps, Bob Saltzman, Susie Silva

Northeast: Anne De Laire Mulgrew, Candace Doucette, Jason Kinchen, Katherine McAuliffe, Michael McCallan, Corey Meyer, Joel Sempala, Donna Tassone

SAF Helps Veterans

Service to the Armed Forces Volunteers Novella and Dupree handed out linens, girl scout cookies and over 300 comfort kits to Veterans struggling with housing insecurity at a Stand Down in Worcester on June 18.

What is a **Stand Down**?

Several times a year service providers come together to connect with veterans to share information about resources and to provide material assistance.



Hometown Heroes Celebration

On June 24, the American Red Cross of Western Massachusetts celebrated its 19th annual Heroes Celebration, live on WWLP 22News on the Mass Appeal television show.

This virtual gathering honored heroes among us—men, women, and youth on the frontlines of the Coronavirus pandemic and beyond—admirable individuals exhibiting extraordinary acts of courage, kindness, and service.

Thank you to our major sponsors: WWLP, along with Arbella Insurance, Eversource, Peoples Bank, RH White, and Smith & Wesson.

If you missed this event and want to see a replay, log on to www.WWLP.com.

Mass Care Summit

The Central and Western Massachusetts Chapter held a virtual Mass Care Summit June 17–19. This event helped volunteers be prepared for this year's disaster season both here in Massachusetts and across the nation. Massachusetts volunteers are a



vital part of our Mass Care workforce. In 2020, the American Red Cross experienced unprecedented disaster responses, and also had to change many procedures. Since 2021, we have continued to respond using new protocols, processes, and information. The last few weeks here in Massachusetts have had an unusually high spike in Multi-Family Fire responses across the entire state. At the Summit, volunteers learned our new Sheltering, Feeding, Emergency Supply Distribution, and Reunification procedures. As we come out of COVID, these new systems are vital to our success.

Red Cross disaster service specialists (DHS, DMH, DSC, DI, Recovery, SRT, Logistics, CET, Latino Engagement, Gov Ops) also provided new information.

“We want to make sure all our volunteers feel ready and prepared as we enter what is expected to be a busy disaster season. With wildfires burning already out west, and three named storms in the east, we know this training is vital in order to respond to those in need,” said Mary Nathan, Disaster Program Manager for Western Massachusetts. “We want to make sure volunteers know what to expect in the field and that they are able to take care of themselves so that they can better serve those in need.”

Special thanks to the planning team: Shelby Carney, Tycho Dickerson, Susan Dietrich, Ana Gallagher, Bill Henry, Carolyn McDonald, Brian Michaud, Bonnie Norton, Pattie O'Brien, Robert Picard, Peter Schubert, Jeanine Swick, Ralph Swick.

Hurricane Prep Underway

As hurricane season approaches, Red Cross volunteers get ready! After back-to-back years of record-breaking hurricane seasons, 2021 is predicted to be no different.

The Red Cross is working to make sure that help is available to anyone who needs it after a disaster.

Pictured, here, volunteers (l to r) Jeanine Swick, Allen Scalise, and Tina Elevado empty a shelter trailer in Worcester.

This trailer will receive needed electrical repairs so that it will be road ready for hurricane season.



Photo credit: Ralph Swick, American Red Cross of Massachusetts

disaster boot camp?

Pride Month: June

Missed the celebration? Watch the following informative presentations:

- **Pride Month:** CPR/First Aid instructor and Provincetown disaster volunteer Steven Latasa-Nicks discusses his Red Cross experience and growing the community from the ground up: <https://t.co/QQ5C2O86uF?amp=1>.
- **National Caribbean-American Heritage Month:** EMT Roger Hamlet describe his work and, along with his Boston EMS colleagues, accepts the 2021 Boston Hero award on behalf of all emergency professionals: <https://youtu.be/9HPvIRsydEw>.

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