

Heavy snow, blowing winds and freezing temperatures across the Midwest impacted the steady flow of blood donations through the American Red Cross. Blood drives were cancelled and donors were unable to safely travel to their donation appointments.

Currently, overall blood supplies are sufficient to meet patient needs. However, 15 blood drives in the Midwest Blood Services Region of the American Red Cross were cancelled last week, resulting in more than 600 fewer donations.

While the overall blood supply meets patient needs, type O negative blood supplies have dropped to emergency levels. Type O negative is the universal blood type and can potentially be transfused to anyone. A recent surge in patient usage has increased the need of this blood type.

The American Red Cross urges eligible donors to make a blood or platelet donation appointment within the next few days to help replenish lifesaving blood supplies.

### **How to Donate Blood**

Simply call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543) or visit [givebloodgivelife.org](http://givebloodgivelife.org) to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license, or two other forms of identification are required at check-in.

Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental permission in some states), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

### **About the American Red Cross**

Governed by volunteers and supported by giving individuals and communities, the American Red Cross is the single largest supplier of blood products to hospitals throughout the United States. While local hospital needs are always met first, the Red Cross also helps ensure no patient goes without blood no matter where or when they need it.

In addition to providing nearly half of the nation's blood supply, the Red Cross provides relief to victims of disaster, trains millions in lifesaving skills, serves as a communication link between U.S. military members and their families, and assists victims of international disasters or conflicts.

### **Grant Community**

#### **Blood Drive**

A bloodmobile will be held Monday, February 15, 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at New Life Fellowship Hall in Grant.

For an appointment, please contact Deb Marshall at 352-4250. Walk-ins are welcome and needed!