

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Blood Bank Asks Public To Donate Blood This Weekend
To Help Prevent Critical Blood Shortage**

Sarasota- Suncoast Communities Blood Bank is making an advanced effort to avert an imminent critical blood shortage. Local demand for blood is high but donations are slim. Currently, there is less than a two day blood supply.

Blood shortages have historically occurred in March. With continual demand for blood and the 42 day shelf life of red blood cells and 5 day shelf life of Platelets it is not uncommon for blood supplies to run low. In the past factors such as full patient census at the hospitals and open heart surgeries have contributed to the need.

According to Peter Taylor, Director of Marketing at Sarasota Memorial Health Care System, "The hospital is experiencing a high demand for blood –for both emergencies and for patients who rely on blood donations for routine treatments and procedures."

SCBB is asking the public for assistance to keep the local blood supply strong and to prevent a major shortage. SCBB requests all residents, 16 years or older, to please donate today through Monday. Donations can be made at a bloodmobile or any of SCBB's locations within the next 36 to 48 hours. The bloodmobile listing can be found at www.scbb.org . Three main locations listed are open for donors. Walk-ins are welcome or donors may call 1-866-97BLOOD (1-866-972-5663) for an appointment.

Donor Centers

1760 Mound Street

Sarasota

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Hours: Monday through Thursday | 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. |
| Friday | 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. |
| Saturday | 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. |

1097 N. Tamiami Trail

Nokomis

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Hours: Monday through Thursday | 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. |
| Friday | 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. |
| Saturday | 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. |

-More-

710 N. Brevard Avenue
Arcadia

Hours: Saturday
Tuesday

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Bloodmobile schedule

Saturday

Wal-Mart
17000 South Tamiami Trail
North Port
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Sam's Club
300 N. Cattlemen Road
Sarasota
9:00 a.m. to Noon

North Port Library
13800 Tamiami Trail
North Port
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Publix
55 N. Indiana Avenue
Englewood
12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Publix
3690 Bee Ridge Road
Sarasota
9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Lido Beach Resort
700 Ben Franklin Drive
Sarasota
1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

-More-

Sunday

Trinity United Methodist Church
4150 S. Shade Avenue
Sarasota
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Church of the Palms Presbyterian Church
3224 Bee Ridge Road
Sarasota
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Fellowship of Believers Church
333 12th Street
Sarasota
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Temple Beth Shalom
1050 S. Tuttle Avenue
Sarasota
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Monday

Tri-Par Estates
1616 Presidio Street
Sarasota
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Children First
1723 N. Orange Avenue
Sarasota
12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Sarasota County Sheriff's Office/Public Defender
2050 Ringling Blvd.
Sarasota
9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Ashton Elementary School
5110 Ashton Road
Sarasota
2:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

-More-

About SCBB

For 60 years, Suncoast Communities Blood Bank (SCBB) has been saving lives by providing blood collection and transfusion services to our community. Much has changed in medicine since 1949, revolutionizing how we save lives. What remains the same is the need for human blood. There is no viable substitute for the selfless act of donating it. Now as then, we can't operate without you.

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