

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Critical Blood Shortage**  
**Dangerously low blood supplies may impact surgeries this week**

**Sarasota-** Sarasota Memorial Hospital and Doctors Hospital are experiencing a critical blood shortage. Very high census at SMH has resulted in elevated blood use. As of this morning, there is not enough blood to handle emergencies and surgeries for the next two days. Supplies of A negative and O negative blood types are at dangerously low levels. There are only 2 units of A negative blood type and 21 units of O negative blood type on the shelf available for patients being treated at both hospitals.

In response, Suncoast Communities Blood Bank (SCBB) is issuing a critical blood alert. The public is urged to donate today through Friday to help sustain the unusually high blood demands.

“The situation is so serious that we are seeking help from other blood centers and hospitals to obtain the blood we need,” says Chris Flood, Director of SCBB’s Transfusion Laboratory. “There are several surgeries planned for Thursday at Doctors Hospital and one for Friday at SMH that will require these specific blood types.”

Earlier this month SCBB attempted to avert a critical situation by asking the community to donate. Since then excessive usage has exceeded the required blood supplies, resulting now in a critical shortage. SCBB must collect a minimum of 100 units daily to meet minimum needs. O negative donors are especially important because they are considered the “universal donor” and can give to any blood type.

Suncoast Communities Blood Bank urges all residents 16 years or older to please donate today through Friday. Donations can be made at a bloodmobile or any of SCBB’s locations within the next 24 to 48 hours. The bloodmobile listing can be found at [www.scbb.org](http://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.

-More-

### 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.

710 N. Brevard Avenue  
Arcadia

Hours: Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Tuesday 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### Bloodmobile Schedule

#### Today

Ardaman and Associates  
78 Sarasota Center Blvd.  
Sarasota  
12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

DeSoto Juvenile  
5991 SE Highway 31  
Arcadia  
1:30p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

#### Thursday

Sarasota County Administration Building  
1660 Ringling Blvd.  
Sarasota  
8:00 a.m. to Noon

-More-

Fiddler's Green Condominium  
6800 Placida Road  
Englewood  
8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Sarasota Memorial Healthcare System at Blackburn Point  
929 South Tamiami Trail  
Osprey  
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sarasota County Technical Institute  
4748 Beneva Road  
Sarasota  
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Century Bank  
2207 Gulf Gate Drive  
Sarasota  
2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Glenridge on Palmer Ranch  
7333 Scotland Way  
Sarasota  
2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**Friday**

Sun & Fun  
7125 Fruitville Road  
Sarasota  
8:00 a.m. to Noon

Gateway Professionals  
501 N. Cattlemen Road  
Sarasota  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Almeda Isles  
1 Almeda Grande  
Englewood  
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

-More-

Cramer Toyota  
900 Highway 41-Bypass  
Venice  
12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### **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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