

New York Blood Center Blood Emergency Talking Points for the Diocese of Rockville Centre

Updated June 2025

Blood Emergency

- On June 2, 2025, New York Blood Center (NYBC) declared a blood emergency following a sharp and sustained drop in local blood donations.
- To meet hospital demand amid this decline, NYBC has had to rely on blood from other parts of the country – an unsustainable fix for a state with some of the busiest hospitals in the nation.
- Despite a population of approx. 19.5 million, only 2% of New Yorkers donate blood, compared to the national average of 3%. To reliably meet patient needs, at least 4% of the population, about 780,000 active donors, is required in New York. Right now, the state is short by nearly 390,000 donors.
- This blood emergency is being declared due to less than a 1–2 day supply of critical blood types across the region.
- Warmer months bring an increase in accidents and trauma-related injuries. Known as “trauma season,” late spring and summer see a rise in emergency room visits and transfusion needs.
- At the same time, blood donations typically decline due to travel, school breaks, and holiday schedules, creating a perfect storm for shortages.
- Compounding the crisis, 50% of New York’s blood supply depends on community-based blood drives hosted by schools, businesses, religious groups, and civic organizations.
- June projections show that 5,000 additional donations are urgently needed, requiring more than 100 new blood drives to be scheduled in the coming weeks.

About the Diocese of Rockville Centre Blood Donation Campaign

- The Diocese of Rockville Centre contributed nearly 7,000 lifesaving blood donations in 2024 affecting the lives of nearly 21,000 patients in need.
- NYBC is fortunate to count on the support of more than 60 parishes that sponsor blood drives regularly within the diocese, and average nearly 60 donations per event.
- Year to date, the diocesan blood drive campaign has seen a 5% decrease in donations but hopes to reverse this trend through the end of the year.

About Blood Donation

- NYBC has served the tri-state area for more than 60 years, delivering more than 1,500 units of lifesaving blood products each day to 200+ hospitals in the region.
- Individuals who require blood transfusions include cancer patients, accident, burn, or trauma victims, laboring mothers and newborn babies, transplant recipients, surgery patients, chronically transfused patients suffering from sickle cell disease or thalassemia, and more.
- Donations from younger generations are becoming increasingly vital, as the share of blood donors under the age of 30 has declined by more than 30% in recent years, posing a long-term threat to the stability of our nation’s blood supply.
- Donating blood takes one hour, and each donation can save up to three lives, making it one of the most impactful ways to give back to your community.
- Blood donors can give every 56 days, and platelet donors can give twice per month. Eligible individuals are encouraged to donate at least once per season.
- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently lifted several blood donor eligibility restrictions. To view current eligibility guidelines or to make an appointment to donate, visit nybc.org or call 1-800-933-2566.