



**Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Prevent a winter blood shortage: Give blood or platelets now

*Donors have chance to win trip to Super Bowl LX during National Blood Donor Month
Red Cross, Saquon Barkley huddle up for a lifesaving play in January*

Jan. 5, 2026 — The American Red Cross is teetering on a blood shortage this winter, which could lead to a disruption in lifesaving care. Donors are urged to make an appointment to give blood or platelets now.

The Red Cross blood supply is under pressure following a busy holiday season when winter weather and packed schedules made it even tougher to ensure hospitals have the blood products needed for critical care. Without immediate action, doctors may have to make difficult decisions about which patients receive blood transfusions and who will need to wait. Donors with types O, A negative and B negative blood are especially needed now.

Don't wait – make an appointment to give blood or platelets now by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, downloading the [Red Cross Blood Donor App](#) or calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

For the seventh year, the Red Cross and the National Football League (NFL) are partnering in January for National Blood Donor Month to urge individuals to kick off 2026 with a blood donation. As a thank-you to donors for helping address the need for blood during the critical post-holiday time, those who come to give Jan. 1-25, 2026, will be automatically entered for a chance to win an exciting Super Bowl LX giveaway. The winner and guest will get to enjoy Super Bowl LX in Santa Clara, California, access to day-of in-stadium pregame activities, tickets to the official Super Bowl Experience, round-trip airfare, three-night hotel accommodations (Feb. 6-9, 2026), plus a \$1,000 gift card for expenses. For full details, visit RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl.

Join a lifesaving team

The Red Cross and Pro Football Champion and blood donor Saquon Barkley are teaming up to remind donors that the best offense against a winter blood shortage is making and keeping blood donation appointments. The blood supply can drop quickly – now's the time to get in the game and give blood or platelets.

"I gave blood once in college and that was the only time I had ever been asked to give, until the Red Cross reached out this fall," said Barkley. "It was a no-brainer for me to give again. It only takes about an hour and once you realize in that short amount of time how much help it can bring – it's a beautiful thing."

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Jan. 5-31:

IL

Bond

Greenville

1/19/2026: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., VFW Post 1377, 2043 South 4th Street

Pocahontas

1/27/2026: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., St Nicholas Church, 401 East State Street

Cass**Beardstown**

1/20/2026: 12 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Saint Johns Lutheran Church, 214 E 6th St

Champaign**Urbana**

1/9/2026: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., Urbana Rising Hope Church, 408 E. Illinois St

1/23/2026: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Illini Union, 1401 W Green St

1/29/2026: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., University of Illinois Illini Union, 1401 West Green Street

Clark**Casey**

1/6/2026: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Casey United Methodist Church, 703 North State Highway 49

Clinton**Aviston**

1/5/2026: 2 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Aviston Elementary School, 350 South Hull Street

Breese

1/21/2026: 12:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Knights of Columbus, 480 North Walnut

Carlyle

1/9/2026: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., St Mary's Catholic Church Carlyle, 1171 Jefferson

New Baden

1/19/2026: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., American Legion Hall, 105 East Illinois Street

Coles**Charleston**

1/19/2026: 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Charleston First Church of God, 1225 Montgomery Drive

1/29/2026: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., St Charles Borromeo Catholic Church - Charleston, 921 Madison

Mattoon

1/9/2026: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 116 N 1st St

1/27/2026: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Lake Land College, 5001 Lake Land Blvd

Crawford**Hutsonville**

1/12/2026: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Hutsonville High School, 500 West Clover Street

Palestine

1/21/2026: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Palestine High School, 102 North Main Street

Robinson

1/26/2026: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Nuttall Middle School, 400 West Rustic Street

Dewitt

Clinton

1/30/2026: 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Clinton Jr High School, 701 Illini Dr

Farmer City

1/27/2026: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Blue Ridge High School, 411 North John

Douglas

Arthur

1/6/2026: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Methodist Church, 128 E. Illinois St

1/20/2026: 12:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Four Acre, 553 North County Road 240 East

Atwood

1/22/2026: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., United Church of Atwood, 210 North Main Street

Edgar

Paris

1/7/2026: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Paris Community Hospital, 721 East Court Street

1/26/2026: 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., VFW, 601 W Court Street

Effingham

Effingham Red Cross Blood Donation Center

603 Eden Avenue, Effingham, IL 62401

Sun Closed

Mon Closed

Tue 11:30AM - 7:30PM

Wed 11:30AM - 7:30PM

Thu 11:30AM - 7:30PM

Fri Closed

Sat 7AM – 3PM

Effingham

1/23/2026: 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Cornerstone Church, 3600 S. Banker St.

Teutopolis

1/5/2026: 12:30 p.m. - 6 p.m., Teutopolis Banquet Hall, 210 S Pearl

Fayette

Brownstown

1/26/2026: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Brownstown Elementary School, 460 W South St

Ramsey

1/23/2026: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Ramsey Grade School, 702 West 6th Street

Shobonier

1/20/2026: 1:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Dutch Prairie Community, 983 N 1300th St

Vandalia

1/6/2026: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Vandalia Moose Lodge, 328 South 3rd Street

Franklin

Benton

1/29/2026: 12:30 p.m. - 5 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic Church, 506 West Main

West Frankfort

1/22/2026: 12:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., St Paul Lutheran Church, 1 West Frankfort Plaza

Greene

Greenfield

1/19/2026: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., St Michaels Hall, 1011 Chestnut

Hamilton

Mc Leansboro

1/22/2026: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Laborers Local 1197, 109 West Market Street

Jasper

Newton

1/26/2026: 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Holy Cross Church of Wendelin, 5782 Ingraham Lane

Jefferson

Dix

1/7/2026: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., Dix Community Center, 217 North Main

Mount Vernon

1/12/2026: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Rolland Lewis Community Building, South 27th Street

1/22/2026: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Central Christian Church, 314 North 12th Street

1/23/2026: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Mount Vernon High School, 11101 North Wells ByPass

Macon

Argenta

1/28/2026: 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Argenta Oreana High School, 500 North Main Street

Decatur

1/6/2026: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Decatur Blood Donation Center, 2674 N. Main St

1/12/2026: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Decatur Blood Donation Center, 2674 N. Main St

1/20/2026: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Decatur Blood Donation Center, 2674 N. Main St

1/27/2026: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Decatur Blood Donation Center, 2674 N. Main St

Mount Zion

1/20/2026: 12 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., Our Lady of the Holy Spirit, 400 North Whitetail Circle

Macoupin

Staunton

1/27/2026: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Community Hospital of Staunton, 400 Caldwell

Marion

Centralia

1/28/2026: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Centralia American Legion Hall, 117 South Poplar, Hwy 51

Morgan

Jacksonville

1/26/2026: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Jacksonville First Christian Church, 2106 S Main St,

Moultrie

Sullivan

1/9/2026: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., American Legion, 8 East Strain

Perry

Du Quoin

1/8/2026: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Marshall Browning Hospital, 900 North Washington

1/28/2026: 7:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., Du Quoin High School, 500 East South Street

Pinckneyville

1/22/2026: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., United Methodist Church, 315 West South Street

Richland

Noble

1/12/2026: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Noble Lions Club Building, 112 West South Avenue

Olney

1/8/2026: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., VFW, 205 North Walnut

Sangamon

Springfield

1/23/2026: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., IBEW Local 51, 3171 Greenhead Dr

1/28/2026: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Visions 1908, 801 S 11th St

Shelby

Shelbyville

1/20/2026: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., First Baptist Church, 1000 West North 6th

Washington

Nashville

1/12/2026: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., St John's Lutheran Church School House, 15538 IL-127

1/20/2026: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Washington County Hospital-Nashville, 705 South Grand

Okawville

1/9/2026: 12 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., St Peter United Church of Christ, 106 West Church

Williamson

Carterville

1/27/2026: 12 p.m. - 4 p.m., SIH Cancer Center, 1400 Pin Oak Drive

1/30/2026: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Tri-C Elementary School, 120 N Greenbriar Rd

Herrin

1/6/2026: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m., Herrin American Legion, 213 E Madison St.

Marion

1/15/2026: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Veteran's Airport, 10400 Terminal Drive, #200

1/16/2026: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Veteran's Airport, 10400 Terminal Drive, #200

1/17/2026: 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Veteran's Airport, 10400 Terminal Drive, #200

1/21/2026: 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Marion High School HEC, 1700 Wildcat Rd

1/30/2026: 12:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m., The Hub, 917 West Main

How to donate blood

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org), call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device 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 in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), 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.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](https://www.redcrossblood.org/RapidPass) or use the Blood Donor App.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission. For more information, please visit [redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org) or [CruzRojaAmericana.org](https://www.CruzRojaAmericana.org), or follow us on social media.

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