

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

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LEGISLATOR 18TH DISTRICT

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July 12th, 2016

Dear Editor,

A blood emergency has been declared in the Long Island region this summer. With schools being recessed for break and many residents on vacation, the summer months are typically low on blood. However, the current blood supply has been extraordinarily low. Right now there is less than a two day supply of blood available, while a seven to nine day inventory is recommended.

In just New York and New Jersey, 2,000 donations are needed every day to keep our hospitals sufficiently stocked. When blood is donated, it takes a minimum of 48 hours to reach a patient as it must be typed, separated, and tested before it can be released to hospitals. The universal blood type O negative, which is only 6% of the population, is greatly needed at this time as that blood can go to any patient.

Due to the declared emergency, my office is working with Long Island Blood Services to host a Blood Drive on **Thursday, July 21st from 1-7 PM** at the Centerport Fire Department, 9 Park Circle, Centerport, NY 11721. I would like to encourage all who can donate to please join our efforts. **Each donor will receive an electronic voucher which they can redeem online for a pair of tickets to the NY Mets!**

Some of the requirements to donate include:

- You can donate blood once every 56 days
- You must be between the ages of 16 and 75
- If you are 16, you will need parental consent
- If you are over the age of 75 you will need a doctor's note
- You must weigh over 110 pounds and be in good health in order to give blood
- No tattoos in the last 12 months

Having blood on our hospital shelves in advance is key to saving lives. Please come out to our Blood Drive and support the thousands of people who will need blood every day! If you have any questions or to schedule an appointment for the blood drive, please contact my office at 631-854-4500.

Best Regards,

William R. Spencer, M.D.
Suffolk County Legislator
18th Legislative District