

Blood shortage causes surgery delays in New England

June 22 2021



A blood shortage has forced some New England hospitals to delay or

reschedule surgeries.

The shortage is due to a combination of factors, including the usual summer decline in [blood donations](#), along with a spike in surgeries driven by operations postponed during the COVID-19 pandemic, officials say.

"We haven't seen anything like this in about 30 or 40 years at least," Vishesh Chhibber, M.D., director of transfusion medicine at UMass Memorial Health, told the *Boston Globe*.

While periodic, localized [blood](#) shortages are not uncommon, this shortage is "unprecedented in its scope," according to Claudia Cohn, M.D., chief medical officer for the American Association of Blood Banks.

Typically, there is a five-day supply of blood of all types nationwide, Red Cross of Massachusetts spokesperson Kelly Isenor said. But at the moment, there is only a half-day supply of urgently needed type O blood. "It's going out faster than it's coming in," Isenor said.

More information: [Boston Globe Article](#)
[American Red Cross](#)

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