

# Blood shortages causing surgery delays across U.S.

July 7 2021

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Demand for blood is up 10% in the United States, and some U.S

hospitals are postponing surgeries due to shortages.

Experts say the situation is a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, *CBS News* reported. Before COVID-19 shutdowns, schools accounted for 25% of collected blood.

NYU Langone Health in New York City came close to delaying scheduled surgeries, surgeon-in-chief Dr. Paresh Shah said.

"There's this huge backlog of operations that really needed to get done," Shah told *CBS News*. "We were down to such a low inventory of blood that if we had one major transfusion event, we would have been depleted completely."

Some U.S. blood centers have only a one-day supply. OneBlood, the Southeast's largest blood center, is struggling to deal with the blood shortage.

"It's a 24/7 operation," OneBlood's Susan Forbes told *CBS News*. "The donors are not in the traditional locations anymore. We lost [large corporations](#), [religious organizations](#), movie theater drives, festivals that were taking place ended."

**More information:** Visit the American Red Cross for more on [blood donation](#).

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Citation: Blood shortages causing surgery delays across U.S. (2021, July 7) retrieved 10 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-07-blood-shortages-surgery.html>

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