



Who: *All healthy adults* are encouraged to give blood. Age and weight criteria:

- 16 years old; ≥ 125 lbs. with parental consent
- 17 years old; ≥ 125 lbs.
- 18 years or older; ≥ 110 lbs.

Getting older does not make people ineligible to donate. People who feel well and can do normal day-to-day activities can probably donate. People **can give blood every 56 days**.

When: *Giving blood only takes about one hour.* Donors can call 877-340-8777 or go online at www.obl.org to schedule an appointment to give blood.

Where: Oklahoma Blood Institute (OBI) has locations across Oklahoma - - - in Tulsa, Ardmore, Ada, Lawton, Enid and Ponca City and five in the OKC-metro area. Many convenient, mobile blood drives are also held each week in schools, businesses and communities across the state. To find hours of operation or a drive in your area, visit www.obl.org.

Why:

- The need for blood donations is constant. Patients in Oklahoma hospitals have needs 365-days-a-year, whether it's for scheduled treatments or for emergencies. Since there is no substitute for human blood, supplies must be constantly renewed.
- ***One in three people will need blood products during a lifetime. However, of those eligible to donate blood in the U.S., less than ten percent actually donate each year.***
- *Every two seconds someone needs blood. Each unit of blood donated can save the lives of up to three people.*
- **Although all blood types are needed, those with O Negative type blood are especially encouraged to donate.** According to American Association of Blood Banks (AABB), those with O Negative blood type make up only nine percent of the national population; however, O Negative blood can be used by anyone in emergency need when a patient's blood type has not yet been identified.

What is Oklahoma Blood Institute?

- OBI manages the life-saving donations from more than 140,000 individuals each year.
- Volunteer ***blood donors give more than a quarter-of-a-million units of blood annually*** to provide a safe and adequate blood supply.
- Once tested and processed by OBI's medical professionals, blood and its components are transported to patients across our state.
- ***OBI provides every drop of blood needed by patients in some 150 medical facilities across Oklahoma. All Oklahoma City-area hospitals and the majority of others around the state rely on donors with Oklahoma Blood Institute to meet their patients' needs.***
- Oklahoma Blood Institute is the ***twelfth largest***, independent non-profit blood center ***in the United States.***