

NEWS RELEASE

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Michigan shooting activates US emergency blood reserve

Blood Emergency Readiness Corps responds with lifesaving blood products

Dec. 1, 2021 – The [Blood Emergency Readiness Corps](#) has activated, sending extra blood units in response to [yesterday's school shooting](#) in Oxford Township, MI. The blood will be used to assist Versiti – the blood center that serves the area – meet the immediate medical needs for the eight remaining victims.

The response marks the second time BERC has activated since its launch in September. The program – which comprises 21 blood centers serving more than 30 states – is the nation's only safety net for emergency situations requiring immediate transfusion care.

Through BERC, blood centers prepare for emergency needs by collecting extra blood products on a rotating on-call schedule. [Central Pennsylvania Blood Bank](#), [Coastal Bend Blood Center](#) and [Oklahoma Blood Institute](#) were the responding blood centers for this emergency activation.

“Situations like these are exactly why BERC was formed,” said Dr. John Armitage, president and CEO of Oklahoma Blood Institute. “When the blood needs are great and immediate after tragic events like this, we can act swiftly and decisively to ensure patients have access to the blood products they need.”

The United States continues to experience a nationwide blood shortage as a result of increased need for blood products and declining donation levels. As a result, most blood centers are operating with little-to-no safety net of available blood units for emergency situations.

“Nearly every community is at risk for its blood supply being severely depleted in the face of a mass casualty event,” said Nelson Hellwig, CEO of the Alliance for Community Transfusion Services (ACTS), which coordinates BERC logistics and administration. “Through BERC, we are providing the transfusion safety net that provides hope and healing during the darkest times.”

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The Blood Emergency Readiness Corps was founded in 2021 to meet the immediate transfusion needs of partner centers when faced with a large-scale emergency situation that requires blood transfusions. To learn more and see a list of participating blood centers, visit bloodemergencyreadinesscorps.org.