

### **What is the current state of the blood supply?**

- New York's blood supply has never been lower.
- In order to maintain a safe blood supply, a seven-day inventory of all blood types must be continually replenished. Right now, reserves are below that minimum.
- Nearly 2,000 donations are needed each day in New York and New Jersey alone.

### **Why is it different this time?**

- We traditionally see a temporary drop in blood donations during the summer, while people are on vacation, and during December, while people are celebrating the holidays. Winter weather also causes problems when it leads to cancelled drives.
- We usually look to September, October and early November to strengthen the blood supply and build back our reserves ahead of winter, but that has not happened this year.
- We're facing a critical shortage right now and that does not bode well for the coming months.

### **Why is this happening?**

- The overall donor base is shrinking. The number of red blood cell donors has dropped by 31% over the past ten years.
- There has also been a decline in first-time donors. We're urging New Yorkers and residents from surrounding areas to become regular blood donors to help replenish the region's blood supply.
- High school donors have dropped by 10% in the past year. Blood drives at high schools and colleges usually give the blood supply a boost when students return from summer vacation.
- There has been an increased demand for blood products. We've seen a ten-year increase in demand for platelets. While some regular donors have stepped up to meet this need for platelets, that means we have fewer red blood cell donors.

### **Region-specific:**

- In NYC: We lost space for a popular donor center in Brooklyn this year, which has meant a loss of 10,000 donations.
- In NJ: We're opening a new donor center in Howell, New Jersey later this year. That will help in the coming months, but we need donations in New Jersey right now.