

Community blood supply of O negative at critical levels

As inventory levels reach a critical stage, Blood Assurance is appealing to the public for O negative blood donations. Those who donate will be entered for a chance to win a trip to Universal Studios.

While just 6 percent of the donor population has O negative blood, it is the universal type that can be given to anyone in an emergency situation when the patient's blood type is unknown.

O negative donors who donate blood during November and December will be registered to win a trip for two to Universal Studios. During November, visitors with any blood type can register to win \$1,000 for the 501(c)(3) charity of their choice.

Donors who do not know

their blood type are asked to donate regardless since whole blood donations will last 42 days.

Three Blood Assurance blood drives are scheduled for McMinnville this month, including two this week. A blood drive is scheduled from noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday at Georgia Career Institute at 755 N. Chancery Street. Another blood drive is scheduled from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday at Walgreens at 1210 Smithville Highway.

A third blood drive is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 29 at Motlow at 225 Cadillac Lane.

A typical blood drive will result in 40 donations of blood, but a minimum of 400 daily donations are needed to keep the area's hospitals adequately

supplied. No other organization provides blood donations to the hospitals in Blood Assurance's service region

Blood Assurance provides blood for River Park Hospital.

Donors must be at least 17 years old (16 years old with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds. A list of common myths regarding blood donations can be found at www.bloodassurance.org/myths.

Whole blood donations can be given every 56 days. To determine your eligibility status, please call 1-800-962-0628 or use the live chat feature at www.bloodassurance.org.

Donors can also interact with the regional blood center on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bloodassurance or on Twitter @bloodassurance.