

Press Conference with Mississippi Blood Services
Thursday, February 22, 2001
1:00 p.m.
State Capital – Governor's Office

Mississippi Facing State of Blood Emergency

Talking Points

- Good Afternoon.
- Mississippi is facing a crisis.
- I am here today to plead with you to donate blood.
- Typically, Mississippi Blood Services expects low amounts of blood during the summer and at the end of the year.
- We are being hit hard now, with a shortage of available blood.
- Our neighboring states are not able to help us, because the entire nation is facing a shortage.
- Hospitals are postponing or rescheduling routine surgeries for fear that blood will not be available to their patients.
- This is simply not what we, as Americans and as Mississippians, expect to be happening in our hospitals.
- 65% of the population is eligible to donate blood.

- Of this 65%, only 5% actually take the time to donate blood.
- The entire donation process just takes 45 minutes; this includes the time to fill out your paperwork.
- If every eligible Mississippian would do their share to donate, Mississippi would not be in a crisis.
- Taking 45 minutes to save someone's life is not a lot to ask.
- Especially when you consider that it could be your family member's life you may be saving or even your own life.
- Often, we do not think about donating blood until a crisis hits close to home.
- Today I'm here to let you know that the crisis has hit home. It is here – Mississippi is in a crisis of blood shortage.
- Please make arrangements to donate blood.
- Take a friend, take a family member, just take the time.
- Rest assured, your donation will help save a life.