

It's easy to help by becoming a donor

The Blood Bank of Alaska, located in Anchorage, belongs to the National Bone Marrow Donor Program, which lists about 200,000 people from 26 states. In Anchorage, 200 people are registered.

Typically, for all registries, most donors are of white, European ancestry and not enough ethnic diversity exists. National registries can also be found in Canada and Europe.

Becoming a donor is easy.

Anyone can stop by the Blood Bank of Anchorage at 4000 Laurel Street, which is a two-story wooden building. The Blood Bank is on the ground floor.

People can also call the blood bank at 563-3110, and they will mail the form necessary to start the process and can answer questions at that time. There is no fee for donating blood.

"Besides registering people in

Anchorage, it is possible for us to mobilize. If we had 30 or 40 people in Bethel or Dillingham interested in participating, we would fly out there with the equipment," said Dale Goodloe, director of the Blood Bank.

"Time is critical when you are handling blood samples. Within 24 hours, the blood has to be tested, so being near an airport is important," Goodloe said.