

Whether someone is among the 39 percent of the U.S. population with type O positive blood or the two percent with B negative, the American Red Cross is looking for eligible donors of all types to give blood this summer to help avert a shortage.

The next blood drive in Chase county will be on Monday, July 29, from 12 noon to 6 p.m. at the St. Patrick parish hall, 740 Broadway.

It will be the first time for the Imperial drive at that location. Due to the expanded space, more donors will be able to be served.

Blair Hartman, a senior at Chase County Schools, is coordinating the July 29 drive.

Those with O negative, A negative and B negative are especially urged to donate, as their blood types are often in high demand because they can potentially be transfused to both Rh negative and positive patients.

O negative is the universal blood type and can potentially be transfused to any patient.

Vacations, activities and holidays contribute to a decrease in donations during the summer, but patients don't get a break from needing blood.

A special effort to recruit younger donors is being made for the July 29 drive.

Individuals age 17, or 16 with parental consent, weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood.

High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements, according to Red Cross officials.