



**27 JANUARY 2006
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PRESS RELEASE**

MORE DONORS STILL NEEDED BEFORE CNY HOLIDAYS

The Singapore Red Cross [SRC] and the Health Sciences Authority [HSA] still need donors to come forward today and tomorrow, before the start of the Chinese New Year (CNY) holidays. The Bloodbank@HSA will open from 9am till 8pm this evening (Friday) and from 9am till 2pm tomorrow (Saturday).

A total of 3,096 units of blood has been collected through the altruism of blood donors who came forward to make their donation at the Bloodbank@HSA and at our community mobile drives since the issuing of our public appeal last Wednesday, 18 January. Since last Friday, 20 January, no elective surgeries scheduled for the following day have had to be postponed. As of this morning (Friday, 27 January), the national blood stock level is around 1,226 units, enough for the next 2 to 3 days.

While the blood supply is no longer at a critically low level, we need to continue appealing to the public to donate blood over the next two days. This is to ensure a blood stock level sufficient to meet at least 3 to 5 days' demand for transfusion needs at the hospitals, as well as to maintain a sufficient supply for emergency situations.

The Bloodbank@HSA will reopen on the 3rd day of CNY from 9am to 2pm on Tuesday, 31 January. This CNY, we hope to inject some festive cheer and will be distributing mandarin oranges to blood donors on Saturday, eve of CNY and on Tuesday as well.

We would like to thank the many blood donors who have responded to our appeal by coming forward to donate blood, and for their patience and understanding in accommodating the prolonged waiting time during the high donor turnout.

We are grateful and would like to express our appreciation to organisations and associations that organised blood mobile drives to make it convenient for blood donors to make their donation. We would also like to thank the many companies and groups that responded to our urgent call for blood by encouraging their colleagues, families and friends to come to the bloodbank and mobile drives.

Our gratitude and appreciation also goes to the media who have been very quick and helpful in their support. The appeal was extensively publicised in major newspapers and broadcast over the radio and TV news.

SINGAPORE RED CROSS & HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY

27 January 2006

▪ **About the Singapore Red Cross**

As the National Blood Donor Recruiter, the Singapore Red Cross is part of the world's largest humanitarian network, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, which comprises 178 Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies around the world, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The Movement's work is based on the seven fundamental principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.

For more information on the National Blood Programme, log on to the Singapore Red Cross' website at www.redcross.org.sg

▪ **About the Health Sciences Authority (HSA)**

At HSA, we apply medical, pharmaceutical and specialised scientific expertise to safeguard public health and safety in Singapore. As one multidisciplinary agency, we serve as the national regulator of all therapeutic products by providing a seamless yet rigorous regulatory process to the healthcare and biomedical sciences industries. We also operate the national blood bank, Bloodbank@HSA, protecting the integrity of the nation's blood supply. As the national reference agency, we exploit specialised scientific, forensic, investigative and analytical capabilities in order to serve the administration of justice and enhance safety in our community. For more details, visit www.hsa.gov.sg

▪ **About the Bloodbank@HSA**

The Bloodbank@HSA is managed by HSA's Centre for Transfusion Medicine (CTM). At CTM, we are responsible for collecting, processing, testing and distributing blood and blood products to all hospitals in Singapore, both public and private. As the national blood service, we provide specialised services in transfusion sciences such as immunohaematology and tissue typing. Our transfusion medicine specialists also provide professional advice and consultations to clinicians in Singapore and the region, so as to promote the best practices in clinical transfusion medicine and to ensure that every blood donation is optimally and safely used.

Bloodbank@HSA is located at the HSA Building at 11 Outram Road, Singapore 169078 (directly opposite the Outram Park MRT Station). Blood donors are welcome to call the Bloodbank@HSA at 62130626 or the Singapore Red Cross at 62200183 for further queries. Blood donations can be made at the Bloodbank@HSA at the following opening hours:

Tuesdays to Thursdays	9.00am – 6.30 pm
Fridays	9.00am – 8.00pm
Saturdays	9.00am – 4.30pm
Sundays	9.00am – 2.00pm
Mondays & Public Holidays	Closed

For more details, visit www.hsa.gov.sg, select the "CTM" button.