



**23 August 2006
MEDIA RELEASE**

Emergency Blood Exercise

27 August 2006, 10am to 6pm

Bloodbank@HSA Holds Blood Drill In Emergency Scenario

An Emergency Blood Exercise [EBE] will be held on this Sunday, 27 August 2006 from 10 am to 6pm to test the operational readiness of the Bloodbank@HSA and its service partner, the Singapore Red Cross [SRC] as well as other supporting agencies in meeting blood needs during an emergency.

2. The exercise will simulate a mass casualty incident triggering an acute demand for blood at the hospitals involved in treating the casualties. The Bloodbank@HSA is activated to collect additional amount of blood to meet the hospitals' need.

3. The EBE will practise all the elements involved in blood supply as follows:

- Activation and recall procedures for essential staff members, volunteers and supporting agencies under a mass casualty emergency scenario
- Deployment and operation of Blood Collection Centres [BCCs]
- Ramping up of blood collection, processing and distribution procedures to meet increased demand, and validating the throughput capabilities
- Multi-agency co-ordination and integration of logistic support and operations during an emergency

4. For the exercise, Bloodbank@HSA will be deploying two mobile BCCs at Bukit Batok Community Club and Bedok Community Centre. The deployment of BCCs will see an integrated operation and co-ordination between various agencies including grassroots organisations. Blood collection activities will involve actual blood donations from the public.

5. *“Through this exercise, we aim to test our readiness as a national blood service in meeting blood demands during a mass casualty incident scenario. This EBE is also a timely exercise to test the various bloodbanking procedures, processes and systems that have been developed and fine-tuned over the past years”* said Dr Diana Teo, Director of HSA's Centre for Transfusion Medicine which operates the Bloodbank@HSA.

6. About 500 personnel and volunteers will be participating in the exercise which also involved various supporting agencies as follows:

- Emergency Blood Teams from the SingHealth Services, National Healthcare Group and Health Promotion Board
- Singapore Armed Forces
- People's Association

7. During this exercise, community grassroots leaders will also play an important role by conducting house-to-house visits to disseminate information on the coming blood exercise and to encourage the community to donate blood.

8. The Bloodbank@HSA and SRC hopes that the public will participate in the EBE by coming forward to donate blood on Sunday, 27 August 2006 from 10am to 6pm. Those who are between 18 to 60 years, weighing above 45kg and in good health are encouraged to donate blood at the following locations:

- Bloodbank@HSA
- Bukit Batok Community Club
- Bedok Community Centre

Please bring your NRIC card if you are a Singaporean or your passport if you are a non-Singaporean. Blood donors can call SRC at 6 2200 183 for further details.

HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY & SINGAPORE RED CROSS
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