



MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SINGAPORE RED CROSS AND HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY
CALL FOR 'A' AND 'O' BLOOD DONATIONS**

Singapore, 18 August 2011 – The Singapore Red Cross (SRC) and the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) are calling on O and A blood donors to come forward to donate blood within this week and next.

The recent increased hospital utilisation caused by several bleeding emergencies and reduced support for corporate bloodmobiles due to the fasting month have resulted in a slow recovery of the daily blood supply. In view of the upcoming long weekend, SRC and HSA aim to ramp up the current blood stocks to meet the daily transfusion needs of patients as well as for bleeding emergencies. In Singapore, more than 350 units are needed daily to meet the transfusion needs of patients in hospitals.

The daily national blood stock is monitored closely by SRC and HSA. HSA is closely managing blood usage with the hospitals, and SRC is working with bloodmobile organisers to mobilise their staff/members/ volunteers to come forward. SRC, as the national blood donor recruiter, has been issuing SMSes to recall blood donors, especially those who are due for their next blood donation.

This blood appeal is an additional measure to call on potential blood donors to come forward to ramp up the stockpile. As blood can only be kept for a limited period of time, we seek the support of blood donors to help us ensure a constant supply of blood.

Blood Donors Urged to Come Forward

All healthy individuals between 16 and 60 years, weighing at least 45kg, are urged to come forward to help. Donors who have not made a donation in the past 12 weeks are encouraged to donate as well. We would also like to inform donors that Bloodbank@Woodlands will be opened on the eve of the Hari Raya Puasa public holiday on Monday, 29 August, from 12pm to 8pm. Bloodbank@Woodlands also offers later closing hours on weekdays from 12pm to 8pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Blood donations can be made at:

- Bloodbank@HSA, located at 11 Outram Road [opposite Outram Park MRT Station]. The opening hours are as follows:

Tuesdays to Thursdays: 9am to 6.30pm

Fridays: 9am to 8pm

Saturdays: 9am to 4.30pm

Sundays: 9am to 2pm

Closed on Mondays and public holidays

- Bloodbank@Woodlands, located at 900 South Woodlands Drive, Woodlands Civic Centre, #05-07. The opening hours are as follows:

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 12pm to 8pm

Saturdays 9am to 5pm

Sundays 9am to 2pm

Closed on Tuesdays and public holidays

*Bloodbank@Woodlands will be opened on the eve of the Hari Raya Puasa public holiday on Monday, 29 August, from 12pm to 8pm.

The public can also donate blood at the following upcoming community bloodmobiles:

Sat, Aug 20, 10am – 4pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">Bukit View Secondary School 16 Bukit Batok Street 21 Singapore 659633 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Bloodmobile @ Hwi Yoh CC 535 Serangoon North Avenue 4, Singapore 550535	Sun, Aug 21, 10am – 4pm <ul style="list-style-type: none">Punggol 21 CC Blk 172C Edgedale Plains Singapore 823172 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Clementi CC 220 Clementi Avenue 4 Singapore
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More details of the community mobiles are available online at www.donorweb.org.

Community and corporate groups who wish to organise a bloodmobile or make blood donations can call the Singapore Red Cross at 6220 0183 for more details.

Donors need to bring their NRIC [for Singaporeans], or passport [for non-Singaporeans].

Those who have not donated blood before in Singapore can visit www.hsa.gov.sg/donationcriteria or call 6220 0183 for more information on the blood donation criteria or to make an appointment for blood donation.

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About Singapore Red Cross Blood Donor Recruitment Programme

Singapore Red Cross (SRC) was appointed as the National Blood Donor Recruiter in April 2001. Together with our partner-in-service, the Blood Services Group of the Health Sciences Authority, we aim to collect sufficient safe blood for the transfusion needs of all our hospitals.

The SRC focuses on 3 main functions in the National Blood Programme:

- Recruitment, Retention and Recognition of blood donors
- Promotion and Education to increase public awareness on the importance of blood donation
- Organisation of mobile blood donation drives in the community

About HSA's Blood Services Group

The Blood Services Group (BSG) of HSA, as the national blood service, secures the nation's blood supply by ensuring a safe and adequate blood supply. It operates the Bloodbank@HSA and Bloodbank@Woodlands. It is responsible for collecting, processing, testing and distributing blood and blood products to all hospitals in Singapore. It also provides specialist transfusion medicine services in immunohaematology and tissue typing and is actively engaged in the cutting edge therapeutic research area of cell processing.