

SINGAPORE, 13 APRIL 2020



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UPDATE ON THE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TAKEN TO SAFEGUARD DONORS' HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Blood is required daily to support the needs of patients in Singapore. We strongly urge donors who are healthy and eligible to step forward to donate blood as patients really need their support even during this challenging COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019) period.

2 The Health Sciences Authority is taking additional precautionary measures to protect the health and well-being of donors when they are at the blood bank or a mobile drive.

3 We are now screening potential donors before they can enter the blood banks or mobile drives. All persons who are unwell, with risk of exposure to COVID-19 based on the answers to the pre-screening questionnaire or have travelled overseas in the last 14 days will not be allowed to enter the premises.

As part of our safe distancing measures, we have set our donation beds at least a metre apart in the donation room. Donors are also encouraged to observe a safe distance while seated at the waiting and refreshment areas. We have provided signages and moved the chairs apart to help donors to space themselves out in these areas. To shorten their time spent at the blood bank, we would also like to encourage donors to make an appointment before coming down for their donation.

5 At mobile drives, we will work with the organisers to spread out the seats and donation beds as much as feasible. We will closely monitor donors' turnout and stagger their entry, if necessary.

HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY SINGAPORE 13 APRIL 2020

• About the Health Sciences Authority (HSA)

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) applies medical, pharmaceutical and scientific expertise through its three professional groups, Health Products Regulation, Blood Services and Applied Sciences, to protect and advance national health and safety. HSA is a multidisciplinary authority. It serves as the national regulator for health products, ensuring they are wisely regulated to meet standards of safety, quality and efficacy. As the national blood service, it is responsible for providing a safe and adequate blood supply. It also applies specialised scientific, forensic, investigative and analytical capabilities in serving the administration of justice. For more details, visit http://www.hsa.gov.sg/.

For more updates on public health and safety matters, follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/HSAsg.

• About HSA Updates

The "HSA Updates" seeks to provide current information, in a consistent and accurate manner, on topics of public interest. For all issues of HSA Updates, please visit www.hsa.gov.sg, click "All Announcements", and select "HSA Updates".

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