



MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SINGAPORE'S O BLOOD STOCKS AT CRITICAL LEVELS,
O BLOOD DONORS URGENTLY NEEDED**

The Singapore Red Cross (SRC) and the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) are urging Group O blood donors to come forward to donate blood over these two weeks leading up to the Chinese New Year holiday to restore the Group O blood stocks to healthy levels. Group O blood stocks have dipped below 6 days and are currently at critical levels due to high usage of these blood types and lower than normal blood donor turnout since the beginning of 2024.

2 As the universal blood group, group O blood is required during emergencies when patients' blood groups are unknown. Furthermore, nearly half of all patients in Singapore have group O blood and can only receive group O blood. If group O blood stocks continue to drop, elective surgeries will have to be postponed and life-saving transfusions could also be compromised.

3 During festive seasons, such as the coming Chinese New Year holiday from 10 to 12 February, blood collection can dip by as much as 20%. It is crucial that we prevent further depletion of the Group O blood stocks and restore them to healthy levels now to ensure we can meet the transfusion needs of patients. We urge all eligible, healthy individuals with blood groups O+ and O- who are between 16 and 60 years old and weigh at least 45 kg to step forward and contribute. Donors are encouraged to donate before their travels as travelling to certain countries or regions in some countries with insect-borne infection risks may make them ineligible to donate blood for a period of time. Each

donation is crucial to ensure that we can maintain a minimum 9-day stockpile to respond to any civil or medical emergencies in Singapore.

Tips for A Pleasant Blood Donation Experience

- 4 For a smooth and pleasant donation experience, follow these tips:
- Visit www.hsa.gov.sg/donor_criteria to check your eligibility, especially if you are a new donor or have traveled in the last four months.
 - Download the DonateBlood app ([iOS](#) / [Android](#)) to schedule an appointment and complete the Donor Health Questionnaire form before your donation to reduce waiting time.
 - Have adequate rest the night before your donation.
 - Have a light meal and drink plenty of fluids on the day of your donation.
 - Bring an official photo identification such as an NRIC, work pass or passport for registration. If you are 16 or 17 years old, a signed parental consent form (www.hsa.gov.sg/parent_consent) is required.
 - Visit giveblood.sg or call 6220 0183 for more information about blood donation.

Where to give blood:

Bloodbank Locations	Opening Hours	
Bloodbank@HSA	Tues – Thurs Fri Sat & Sun Mon & Public Holidays	9am – 5pm 9am – 8pm 9am – 4.30pm Closed
Bloodbank@Dhoby Ghaut	Mon – Wed Fri Sat & Sun Thurs & Public Holidays	12pm – 8pm 12pm – 8pm 10am – 5pm Closed
Bloodbank@Woodlands	Mon Wed – Fri Sat & Sun Tues & Public Holidays	12pm – 8pm 12pm – 8pm 10am – 5pm Closed
Bloodbank@Westgate Tower	Mon – Tues & Thurs – Fri Sat & Sun Wed & Public Holidays	12pm – 8pm 10am – 5pm Closed
Bloodbank@One Punggol	Mon & Wed – Fri Sat & Sun	12pm to 8pm 10am to 5pm

	Tues & Public Holidays	Closed
Community Blood Drives	Visit www.redcross.sg/donateblood for locations.	

The Bloodbanks' opening hours during the Chinese New Year period are as follows:

- CNY Eve (9 Feb): All our Bloodbanks at HSA, Dhoby Ghaut, Westgate Tower, Woodlands and One Punggol are open for whole blood donation from 9am to 2pm. Last appointment for apheresis donation (only at Bloodbank@HSA) is at 12:15pm.
- CNY Day 1 and 2 (10 and 11 Feb): All Bloodbanks are closed.
- CNY Day 3 (12 Feb): Bloodbanks at Dhoby Ghaut, Westgate Tower, Woodlands and One Punggol are open for whole blood donation.

Organise Group Donation and Donate Together

5 Community and corporate groups can call the Singapore Red Cross at 6220 0183 or email donate.blood@redcross.sg to organise group donations. Two-way chartered bus service to any of our Bloodbanks is available for group donation booking with 10 or more donors.

About the Singapore Red Cross Blood Donor Programme

The Singapore Red Cross (SRC) was appointed 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 three 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 HSA's Blood Services Group, as the national blood service, secures the nation's blood supply by ensuring a safe and adequate blood supply. 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 therapy.