



MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Singapore, 11 December 2019 – The Singapore Red Cross (SRC) and the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) urge blood donors and members of the public to come forward to donate blood over the next three weeks.

2 The national blood stock levels for all blood groups are currently low. To raise the blood stocks to healthy levels again, we need 1,500 group O donors, 750 group A donors and 750 group B donors to donate blood over the next three weeks. This will ensure that we have enough blood to support patients' transfusion needs and medical emergencies in Singapore.

3 In particular, the national blood stock level for group O blood products is only half of what is needed. Being the universal blood group, group O blood is required during emergencies when patients' blood groups are unknown. Furthermore, nearly half of the patients in Singapore have group O blood and can only receive similar blood.

Blood Donors Urged to Come Forward

4 All healthy individuals between 16 and 60 years of age, with group O, A or B blood and weighing at least 45 kg, are urged to come forward to help. Donors who have not donated in the past 12 weeks are also encouraged to do so. They may visit any of the four blood banks – Bloodbank@HSA (Outram), Bloodbank@Dhoby Ghaut, Bloodbank@Woodlands and Bloodbank@Westgate Tower. The addresses and opening hours of these blood banks are given in the table below.

5 Donors need to bring their NRIC [for Singaporeans], or passport [for non-Singaporeans]. For donors aged 16 or 17 years old, a signed parental consent form is also required. The form can be printed out from here: www.hsa.gov.sg/parent_consent

6 Donors are advised to eat a light meal and drink plenty of fluids before donating blood. They should also have adequate rest the night before the donation and on the actual day itself.

7 Those who have not donated blood before in Singapore can visit www.hsa.gov.sg/donor_criteria to complete a short questionnaire to check on their eligibility. They can also call 6220 0183 for more information or to make an appointment.

| Blood Bank Locations | Opening Hours | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Bloodbank@HSA (Opposite Outram Park MRT) 11 Outram Road Singapore 169078 | Tues – Thurs Fri Sat & Sun Mon & Public Holidays | 9am – 6.30pm 9am – 8pm 9am – 4.30pm Closed |
| Bloodbank@Dhoby Ghaut Dhoby Ghaut MRT Dhoby Xchange (Near Exit B) 11 Orchard Road #B1-05 to 10 Singapore 238826 | Mon – Wed Fri Sat & Sun Thurs & Public Holidays | 12pm – 8pm 12pm – 8pm 10am – 5pm Closed |
| Bloodbank@Woodlands Woodlands Civic Centre (Opposite Causeway Point) 900 South Woodlands Drive #05-07 Singapore 730900 | Mon Wed – Fri Sat & Sun Tues & Public Holidays | 12pm – 8pm 12pm – 8pm 10am – 5pm Closed |
| Bloodbank@Westgate Tower (Linked to Jurong East MRT) 1 Gateway Drive #10-01 to 05 Singapore 608531 | Mon – Tues Thurs – Fri Sat & Sun Wed & Public Holidays | 12pm – 8pm 12pm – 8pm 10am – 5pm Closed |

Upcoming community blood drives can be found here: www.redcross.sg/donateblood

Community and corporate groups which wish to organise group donations at our blood banks can call the Singapore Red Cross at 6220 0183 or email donate.blood@redcross.sg for more details.

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About the Singapore Red Cross Blood Donor Recruitment Programme

The Singapore Red Cross (SRC) has been appointed the national blood donor recruiter since April 2001. Together with our partner-in-service, the Blood Services Group of the Health Sciences Authority, we aim to recruit sufficient blood donors and ensure an adequate blood supply to meet the transfusion needs of all hospitals in Singapore.

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.