



NPO Number: 049066NPO  
NPC Registration No. 2000/026390/08

Head Office or Zone  
1 Constantia Boulevard  
Constantia Kloof Ext 22, 1709

Postal Address: Private Bag X14, Weltevreden Park, 1715  
**Tel:** 011 761 9000 **Email:** customerservice@sanbs.org.za  
www.sanbs.org.za

## CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF OUR CONSTITUTION AND THE RIGHT TO LIFE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

21 MARCH 2022

The national observation and proclamation of the rights we enjoy in our country are once again celebrated on this year's Human Rights Day. This year's celebration coincides with the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our nation's adoption of the Constitution which prescribes an improvement in the quality of life for all citizens. It is the South African National Blood Service's (SANBS) undertaking to play its part in delivering on this mission.

Health is a basic human right. Every year, many South Africans receive a life-saving blood transfusion that is made possible by the selfless acts of our donors. A right that we all enjoy, owing to the comprehensive South African Bill of Rights preserved in our constitution.

"We are driven by our heartfelt calling to save lives and ensure that every citizen has access to safe blood when they need it. SANBS supports the rights of every citizen to have access to affordable healthcare of the highest quality – as is their basic human right," said SANBS Executive: Transfusion Donor Services and Marketing, Siemi Prithvi Raj.

With new changes having been made to the SANBS COVID-19 Donor Deferral Measures, donors are urged to take advantage of the eased regulations to visit their nearest donor centres and not only donate a unit of blood, but also commit to regular donation. These new deferral measures include the following:

- Asymptomatic donors can donate blood, including healthcare workers.
- The deferral period for direct contacts with symptoms of infection changes from 14 to seven (7) days, from the date of complete clearance of symptoms.
- The deferral period for individuals who have travelled overseas is reduced from 14 to 10 days.
- Individuals with confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection will be deferred for seven (7) days from the date of complete clearance of symptoms; and
- Asymptomatic individuals with confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection will be deferred for seven (7) days from the date of the positive COVID-19 test.

sanbs.org.za  
Toll free 0800 11 9031

**Board of Directors: Executives:** V Reddy (CEO), K Van Den Berg (Medical Director) **Non Executives:** A Ramalho (Chairman), F Burn, S Fakie, P Knox, G Leong, T Mokgaliba, P Mthethwa, R Theunissen, M Vaitilingum.

**Company Secretary:** A Manduna

**FRM-CEO-002**

1001481 REV 31 (18/08/21)

Page 1 of 2

Universal Blood Type



Donates to ..... Everyone

Receives from ..... 

“We encourage South Africans to give a little of their valuable time throughout Human Rights Month to donate blood and make a difference that has the potential to change the lives of so many people,” added Prithvi Raj.

SANBS continues to follow the guidelines prescribed by the NICD and WHO to promote COVID-19-safe interactions at all its fixed and mobile donor sites. Visit [www.sanbs.org.za](http://www.sanbs.org.za) or contact 0800 11 9031 to find out where you can donate blood. Follow us on Twitter (@theSANBS), Facebook (@SANBS) and Instagram (@thesanbs).

## ENDS

### About The South African National Blood Service (SANBS)

SANBS is a Non-Profit organisation, which provides a vein to vein blood transfusion service in eight of the nine provinces of South Africa, excluding the Western Cape.

The organisation has a donor base of approximately 466 000 individuals. SANBS has two testing centres; one in Johannesburg and the other in Durban, which are supplemented by seven blood processing centres around the country. 83 Blood banks serve over 800 hospitals and private clinics in South Africa. The organisation also offers specialised laboratory services, for example, tissue immunology, cytogenetics and proficiency testing.

SANBS is dependent on a healthy donor population who is willing and able to donate blood and blood products to meet the blood requirements of the country. Each blood donation can save up to three lives.

#### For enquiries, contact:

Khensani Mahlangu

Communications Officer

[khensani.mahlangu@sanbs.org.za](mailto:khensani.mahlangu@sanbs.org.za)

Tel: 011 767 9876 | Cell: 082 419 0431

[sanbs.org.za](http://sanbs.org.za)  
Toll free 0800 11 9031

**Board of Directors: Executives:** V Reddy (CEO), K Van Den Berg (Medical Director) **Non Executives:** A Ramalho (Chairman), F Burn, S Fakie, P Knox, G Leong, T Mokgalitha, P Mthethwa, R Theunissen, M Vaithilingum.

**Company Secretary:** A Manduna

**FRM-CEO-002**

1001481 REV 31 (18/08/21)

Page 2 of 2

Universal Blood Type



Donates to ..... Everyone

Receives from ..... 