



# COLLECTION OF BLOOD FROM VACCINATED DONORS

Dear Valued SANBS Stakeholder,

With the roll out of the national COVID-19 vaccination programme, more South Africans, including blood donors, are queueing up to get the COVID jab. SANBS does not defer vaccinated persons from donating nor do we record whether a donor was vaccinated or not. This is in line with other international blood services. Hospitals and doctors are therefore not able to inform patients whether or not a unit of blood was donated by a vaccinated donor. We are confident that the currently approved vaccines do not pose a safety risk to blood recipients.

Large portions of the world population will soon be vaccinated against COVID-19. As a result, it is not feasible to exclude this group of people from donating blood as our supply would be compromised. Patients who have concerns about receiving blood from vaccinated donors, are entitled to refuse blood transfusions when discussing treatment options with their doctors. There are other patient groups, such as Jehovah's Witnesses, who decline transfusions and are able to discuss alternative medical care with their doctors.

The blood transfusion services in South Africa are dedicated to supplying the safest blood possible, while maintaining a sufficient supply to meet the needs of our country. We follow international blood collection best practice and act quickly if there is any concern regarding blood product safety or possible harm to our patients.

We urge all healthy donors to come forward and continue to donate much needed, life-saving blood.

**#TrustedToSaveLives**