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THE SANBS ENCOURAGES BLOOD DONATION AMIDST CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) CONCERNS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

13 MARCH 2020

The South African National Blood Service (SANBS) would like to appeal to all our healthy donors to please continue to donate blood. The SANBS would like to assure donors that donating blood is safe. The Coronavirus (COVID-19) cannot be transmitted through a blood transfusion as respiratory viruses are generally not known to be transmittable by donation or transfusion. Blood donor screening, which includes travel self-deferrals, are already in place to prevent individuals who may be at risk of clinical respiratory infections from donating blood. The SANBS does not test for the COVID-19.

The SANBS would like to urge healthy donors who belong to all blood groups to continue to donate blood to ensure that the blood stock levels are adequate at all times in the country. "We anticipate added pressure on the blood supply during Easter, Ramadan and the winter months and the added effects of the COVID-19 could see the number of eligible donors decrease in the following few months," says Silungile Mlambo, spokesperson for the SANBS.

If donors suspect any risk of infection they must please contact the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) hotline on 0800 029 999. The SANBS urges donors to take the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of fellow citizens. If you are feeling unwell or exhibiting any clinical symptoms of infection (fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat and shortness of breath), you are requested to delay donating blood until you are in good health.

Should you require any additional information or if you would like to find a blood donation clinic close to you, please contact the SANBS on 0800 1190 31 or visit the

Universal Blood Type:



Donates toEveryone

Receives from

sanbs.org.za
Toll free 0800 11 9031

Board of Directors: Executives: J Louw (CEO), J Thomson (Medical Director) **Non-Executives:** G Simelane (Chairman), R Brand, F Burn, W Gumede, P Knox, V Moodley, P Mthethwa, A Ramalho, R Theunissen,
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website www.sanbs.org.za for more information.

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About the SANBS

The South African National Blood Service (SANBS) is an independent non-profit organization, and one of the leaders in the discipline of blood transfusion. SANBS operates in eight out of nine provinces in South Africa (with the exception of the Western Cape, which is serviced by the Western Province Blood Transfusion Service). It also provides crucial support to countries in the SADC region.

SANBS supplies over one million blood products annually and is rated among the top blood services in the world. This pedigree comes, as a result of world-class testing and collection protocols which ensure that the blood which is transfused is always of top quality.

The blood is processed into its constituent components; red blood cells, plasma and platelets therefore in principle a single blood donation can save a minimum of three lives.

Universal Blood Type:



Donates toEveryone

Receives from