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UPDATED PRECAUTIONARY DONOR DEFERRAL PERIODS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

7 APRIL 2020

As the situation with the COVID-19 outbreak is still developing, so are the responses of the South African National Blood Service (SANBS) to this novel virus. We are continually adapting our operations, per expert advice, and the relevant changes are made as and when the need arises.

New research findings have since informed the latest changes introduced within our operations for the safety of our donors and staff members. This includes the adjustment of precautionary donor deferral periods.

Precautionary safety measures

The SANBS has taken precautionary measures to ensure that the people who utilise their facilities are protected. In addition to thoroughly assessing donors and staff at all entry point to our facilities, we have also equipped all sites with supplies of alcohol-based antiseptic sprays and wet wipes.

Updated precautionary deferral measures

To ensure the safety of staff and donors, persons confirmed with Covid-19 infection or at risk will be deferred from donation as follows:

- Individuals who have travelled overseas will be **deferred for 28 days** from date of return from these countries.
- Individuals with confirmed diagnosis with Coronavirus infection will be **deferred for 28 days** from date of complete clearance of symptoms.
- Individuals who have had close contact with anyone with confirmed or probable Coronavirus infection will be **deferred for 28 days** from last date of contact.

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
Company Secretary: M Luthuli
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- Anyone exhibiting flu-symptoms on day of donation will be **deferred for 7 days**.

We continue to stress the importance of staying home and delaying donation if you are feeling unwell or exhibiting any clinical symptoms of infection (fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat and shortness of breath).

Our donor centres remain operational across the country. The situation with the outbreak is still developing and we will keep you informed on all issues affecting you. Feel free to speak to our qualified staff at donation centres or call our Customer Services Centre on 0800 119 031, if you have any questions or concerns.

If you feel you are at risk or fear that you may have been infected with COVID-19, urgently contact the toll-free NICD hotline on 0800 029 999.

ENDS

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:



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Receives from