

**26 March 2020**

## **Situation Update - Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

Dear colleague,

We are committed to providing you with regular updates to ensure you are kept aware of our stock position and informed of any changes we are making to maintain our services for the NHS. We appreciate how demanding your work is right now, and again thank you for your ongoing support in helping to ensure that blood components are available for patients who need them.

We have built blood stocks over the last few weeks and our stock levels for all components remain in a good position. You can view our red cell and platelet stocks on our dedicated [coronavirus-covid-19 page](#). The stock position is updated daily, Monday – Friday.

NHSBT is aware of the significant changes happening in hospitals as capacity is increased to manage Covid 19 patients. As a result, demand for red cells has reduced by about 30% when compared to demand four weeks ago. Our blood donors remain active and supportive, but as expected we have seen a reduction in donations. This is in part due to staffing challenges, but also due to some of our collection venues being closed. Donation has reduced by c20%, but with reduced demand, we are currently able to maintain a good stock level of red cells and platelets.

We are concentrating our efforts on ensuring short shelf life components, platelets and components for intrauterine, neonatal, paediatric and infant use, are available for issue when needed.

NHSBT has written to 900,000 donors asking for their continued support with the message “You can still travel to donate. Giving blood and platelets is essential to the NHS and vulnerable patients. Please keep donating.” Our [blood.co.uk website](#) has all the information blood donors need to be reassured it is safe to donate and to keep their appointment.

If you have any queries regarding this communication, or concerns regarding the supply of our services in this rapidly changing position, please do not hesitate to contact your local Hospital Customer Services Manager, Patient Blood Management Practitioner or Consultant.

Kind regards,

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Chief Nurse / Assistant Director Commercial & Customer Services

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