

SINGAPORE, 28 April 2009

## HSA UPDATES

***“HSA UPDATES” addresses topics of current public interest, and is subject to change as more information becomes available.***  
**HSA UPDATES NO 3/2009**

### **UPDATE No.1 ON SWINE FLU DONOR DEFERRAL GUIDELINES** **ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO ENSURE** **CONTINUED SAFETY OF NATIONAL BLOOD SUPPLY**

In response to the increasing international concerns over swine flu, the Blood Services Group of the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) is taking additional screening precautionary measures to ensure the continued safety of the national blood supply.

- 2 With immediate effect, donors are urged not to donate blood if they:
- have travelled in the last 10 days to:
    - Mexico; or
    - the following North American states: California, Texas, Kansas, Ohio and New York City; or
    - the following areas in Canada: Nova Scotia and British Columbia;
    - the following area in Spain: Almansa
    - or any other places with confirmed reports of swine flu (please [click here](#) for the latest list of countries with swine flu).They will be deferred for 3 weeks from date of return.
  - are feeling unwell during the 2 weeks (eg flu) prior to and on the day of donation.
  - have fever during the 3 weeks prior to and on the day of donation.
  - have had close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with swine flu or suspected to have swine flu in the last 3 weeks. Close contact refers to having cared for, having lived with, or having had direct contact with a patient with swine flu.

3 These additional precautionary measures are over and above our longstanding blood safety protocol. Donors who are affected by these latest precautionary measures are welcome to donate blood after the deferral period.

4 As blood is needed daily, and in view of the additional screening procedures, we appeal to donors who are eligible to donate blood to continue to come forward to support the National Blood Programme.

5 For further clarifications, donors may call the Bloodbank@HSA at Tel: 6213 0626.

## **HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY**

**28 April 2009**

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### ▪ **About the Health Sciences Authority (HSA)**

The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) applies medical, pharmaceutical and scientific expertise through its three professional groups, Health Products Regulation, Blood Services, Applied Sciences, to protect and advance national health and safety. HSA is a multidisciplinary authority. It serves as the national regulator for health products, ensuring they are wisely regulated to meet standards of safety, quality and efficacy. It operates the national blood bank, Bloodbank@HSA, securing the nation's blood supply. It also applies specialised scientific, forensic, investigative and analytical capabilities in serving the administration of justice. For more details, visit [www.hsa.gov.sg](http://www.hsa.gov.sg)

### ▪ **About HSA's Blood Services Group**

The Blood Services Group (BSG) of HSA, as the national blood service, secures the nation's blood supply by ensuring a safe and adequate blood supply and providing specialist transfusion medicine services.

BSG operates the Bloodbank@HSA, and it is responsible for collecting, processing, testing and distributing blood and blood products to all hospitals in Singapore, both public and private.

As the national blood service, it provides specialised services in transfusion sciences such as immunohaematology and tissue typing. Its transfusion medicine specialists also provide professional advice and consultations to clinicians in Singapore and the region, so as to promote the best practices in clinical transfusion medicine and to ensure that every blood donation is optimally and safely used.

Bloodbank@HSA is located at the HSA Building at 11 Outram Road, Singapore 169078 (directly opposite the Outram Park MRT Station). Blood donors are welcome to call the Bloodbank@HSA at Tel: 6213 0626.

### ▪ **About HSA Updates**

The "HSA Updates" seeks to provide current information, in a consistent and accurate manner, on topics of public interest. For all issues of HSA Updates, please visit [www.hsa.gov.sg](http://www.hsa.gov.sg), click "News & Events", and select "HSA Updates".

**Media representatives are welcome to send any queries to the Corporate Communications Department @ HSA.**