



SINGAPORE, 7 July 2009

HSA UPDATES

“HSA UPDATES” addresses topics of current public interest, and is subject to change as more information becomes available.
HSA UPDATES NO 8/2009

UPDATE NO. 4 ON INFLUENZA A (H1N1-2009) **DONOR DEFERRAL GUIDELINES**

Travel History Deferral Guidelines Lifted In View Of Community Spread

With immediate effect, the Bloodbank@HSA will stop deferring blood donors who have travelled to countries with confirmed reports of local human-to-human transmission of the Influenza A (H1N1-2009) cases.

2 As the number of local Influenza A (H1N1-2009) cases continues to rise showing signs of a sustained community spread in Singapore, it is no longer necessary to institute deferral measures for donors who have travelled to outbreak areas.

3 While there is currently no conclusive evidence about the transfusion-transmissibility of Influenza A (H1N1-2009) virus, existing deferral of donors with fever or influenza symptoms will still apply for those who:

- are feeling unwell (eg: flu) during the 1 week 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 Influenza A (H1N1-2009) or suspected to have Influenza A (H1N1-2009) in the last 3 weeks. Close contact refers to having cared for, having lived with, or having had direct contact with a patient with Influenza A (H1N1-2009).

In addition, donors who have a history of confirmed or suspected Influenza A (H1N1-2009) infection will be deferred for a period of 3 weeks after complete recovery.

4 The Bloodbank@HSA would also like to urge donors to call us immediately at our 24-hour hotline 1800-2263320 if they feel unwell after donation so that their blood will not be used for transfusion.

5 The Bloodbank@HSA will continue to monitor and review our screening criteria based on the best available information to ensure the safety of our national

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

HEALTH SCIENCES AUTHORITY

7 July 2009

▪ **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 <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 <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.