

To: Transfusion Services Managers
From: Hospital Relations
Date: January 28, 2026
Re: Winter Storm and the Blood Supply Update

Update

The winter ice storm has severely limited our operations resulting in zero collections from Saturday, January 24, 2026, through Tuesday, January 27, 2026. Even one day without collections causes significant impact to the blood supply, and we are now experiencing multiple days with no collections. Limited collections are expected to resume on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, primarily in our donor center locations, as most mobile drive opportunities have been cancelled coinciding with the closing of several school districts throughout our service area. Temporary adjustments to donor center locations and hours have been made over the next several days as recovery efforts continue.

Of particular concern is the platelet supply and Rh-negative red cells. Requests for these product types will be triaged until the inventory is deemed stable. Import opportunities are in progress but will not be able to meet the normal demand for these product types.

In an attempt to help recover collections, we are also seeking hospital facilities that would be able to host a blood drive on Thursday, January 29, 2026, Friday, January 30, 2026, and Saturday, January 31, 2026. Please contact the Director of Mobile Donor Recruitment, Clint McCoy at cmccoy@carterbloodcare.org if your facility would be able to host a blood drive during this time.

Impact to Clients

- Platelet rotations are expected to be impacted, adjusted, or suspended.
- If an order is needed for imminent transfusion, please communicate the urgency to hospital services.
- Red cell standing orders may be adjusted or discontinued until the supply is deemed stable.
- The platelet and Rh-negative red cell supply is below optimal and is expected to reach critical levels.

Client Action Required

- Please do not discard expired platelets and maintain proper storage, as those may be the only option for transfusion.
- Please consult with your medical director and prepare to transfuse expired platelets if no other option is available.
- Please be prepared to accept cold-stored platelets.

- Notify appropriate staff as applicable. Implement a triage process to help manage the platelet and Rh-negative red cell supply. Please be prepared to cancel elective procedures if the supply is not sufficient to support.
- Please cooperate with hospital services as blood product requests are triaged.
- Be prepared to release red cells or platelets to meet trauma and/or definite transfusion needs *elsewhere* as the blood center inventory may not be able to support.
- Please encourage family, friends and colleagues to donate blood to help recover the blood supply.

Questions and Additional Information:

Your understanding has been sincerely appreciated, and we are grateful for the partnerships that we enjoy with you in the service of your patients. Please contact hospitalrelations@carterbloodcare.org with any concerns.