



To: Transfusion Services Managers
From: Hospital Relations
Date: March 12, 2020
Re: COVID-19 and the Blood Supply

Carter BloodCare recently attended a meeting in Washington, DC which addressed the effect of the current emergence of coronavirus infection in the USA. The meeting was attended by all blood collection agencies and included a presentation from the Food and Drug Administration.

Nationwide, blood programs reported cancelled blood drives. This has been our experience too, but not yet to the extent of the alarming numbers of drive cancellations in New York and Seattle. In anticipation that an increasing number of businesses and universities, where we had planned to hold drives, will encourage working and learning from home, we are taking every step we can to ensure that donations are sustained at a level appropriate for your patients' needs. These steps will be particularly important given that the reduction in blood inventories is nationwide and there are no opportunities to import blood and components to bolster local inventories.

Client Action Required:

- Please be judicious when ordering blood products.
- Develop a hospital plan with strategies that address potential blood shortages.
- Please be forthright in your communications with hospital services.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. Updates will be communicated as necessary.