



**To:** Transfusion Services Managers  
**From:** Hospital Relations  
**Date:** February 15, 2021  
**Re:** Winter Weather and the Blood Supply

## **Background**

The community blood supply has remained at consistently lower levels this year as a result of the pandemic. More recently, testing delays further added to the already strained situation. Now we are facing a winter weather event which is affecting our ability to meet routine orders for red cells and platelets.

Donor center and mobile drives operations have been operating at limited capacity and with restricted hours. All donor collections were cancelled Sunday and will remain closed through Monday. Even one day with no collections causes significant impact to the blood supply, and we are now experiencing multiple days without any collections.

These closures will severely limit our operations.

## **Impact to Clients**

- Daily red cell and platelet stock orders will be triaged.
- If an order is needed for imminent transfusion, please communicate the urgency to hospital services.
- Red cell and platelet rotation and standing orders may be discontinued until the supply is deemed stable.
- We will import, when product is available, to support operations.

## **Client Action Required**

- Maintain a minimal inventory of red cells and platelets.
- Notify appropriate staff and medical director as applicable. Implement a triage process to help manage the minimal supply.
- Please cooperate with hospital services as all blood orders will be triaged.
- Be prepared to release group O red blood cells to meet trauma and/or definite transfusion needs elsewhere as the blood center inventory may not be able to support.
- The need will be critical. Please encourage family, friends and colleagues to donate blood once normal operations resume.

## **Questions and Additional Information:**

Your understanding of the difficulties our program has faced during these trying times 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](mailto:hospitalrelations@carterbloodcare.org) with any concerns.