



**To:** Transfusion Services Managers  
**From:** Hospital Relations  
**Date:** February 2, 2022  
**Re:** Winter Storm Warning and the Blood Supply

### **Background**

The community blood supply has remained at consistently challenging levels through the last 20 months. Now, we are facing a winter weather event which could affect our ability to meet routine orders for red cells and platelets. Although we do not anticipate this event to be as serious as February 2021, Carter BloodCare remains diligent in monitoring the situation.

Donor center and mobile drive operations have been cancelled for Thursday, February 3, 2022, and will have shortened hours on Friday, February 4, 2022. These closures will affect our operations and blood availability. Platelets are expected to be of particular concern over the next several days.

### **Impact to Clients**

- Daily red cell and platelet stock orders could be triaged.
- If an order is needed for imminent transfusion, please communicate the urgency to hospital services.
- Red cell, platelet rotation, and standing orders may be re-scheduled or delayed.
- Hazardous driving conditions could delay blood product deliveries.

### **Client Action Required**

- Be judicious when placing orders for products as current inventory levels do not support the ability to overstock red cells and platelets.
- Notify appropriate staff and medical director as applicable. Implement a triage process to help manage the supply.
- Please cooperate with hospital services as all blood orders may be 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.

### **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](mailto:hospitalrelations@carterbloodcare.org) with any concerns.