



NPO Number: 049066NPO
NPC Registration No. 2000/026390/08

Head Office or Zone
1 Constantia Boulevard
Constantia Kloof Ext 22, 1709

Postal Address: Private Bag X14, Weltevreden Park, 1715
Tel: 011 761 9000 **Email:** customerservice@sanbs.org.za
www.sanbs.org.za

12 April 2023

Dear valued stakeholder

CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF GROUP O BLOOD

Please be advised that the South African National Blood Service (SANBS) is currently experiencing a critical shortage of Group O blood as the demand for blood continues to outstrip the donations received from the public. SANBS needs to maintain 5 days' stock of blood to ensure an uninterrupted supply to hospitals. The demand for blood has been consistently higher than predicted over the Easter holidays, resulting in the current days cover for Group O being at a critical level of **1.8 days**.

We appeal to all clinicians to make use of the SANBS Type and Screen facilities (contact your local Blood Bank for more information) wherever possible. This will result in more Group O blood being available in the Blood Bank for more urgent cases. The Blood Bank staff will be contacting clinicians to inform them where there may be potential delays in fulfilling blood orders. **Cutbacks on all non-emergency cases will be enforced until the situation stabilises and improves.**

We are also facing increasing pressure on the supply of group O blood stored in Emergency Blood Fridges. We are endeavouring to manage this situation in an equitable manner by sharing the limited stocks across the country. Where possible, we urge clinicians to send a sample to the Blood Bank for crossmatched blood rather than make use of blood kept in emergency fridges or emergency uncrossmatched blood.

We apologise for the inconvenience and difficulty resulting from these shortages, but we can assure you that we are doing everything possible to reverse the situation.

Dr. Karin van den Berg
Medical Director

Dr. Marion Vermeulen
Executive Transfusion Medicine
and Technical Services

Universal Blood Type



Donates to Everyone

Receives from 

sanbs.org.za
Toll free 0800 11 9031