

Sudbury residents urged to donate blood!

H1N1, weather and holidays all expected to impact much-needed blood supply

Faced with the risk of a rapidly spreading H1N1 virus, inclement winter weather and declines in donations during the approaching holiday season, Canadian Blood Services is asking Sudbury residents to donate blood in the coming weeks. The organization is hoping to build up the blood supply now, prior to potential drops in donation levels.

At this time of year, unpredictable weather can sometimes affect people's ability to attend clinics and with the H1N1 flu virus now circulating, it may reduce the number of people who are feeling well enough to donate."

In addition, the organization responsible for managing the country's blood supply (outside of Quebec), traditionally experiences a slowdown in donations during the holiday season. However, the need for blood is ongoing.

People in this community continue to undergo surgeries, cancer treatments and other medical procedures all of which require blood and blood products. Their need doesn't stop for the holidays, a snow storm or a flu outbreak."

Canadian Blood Services is working to build up its inventory of blood and blood products in order to ensure it is available to patients in need. Typically, most units of blood are used within five days of donation. The organization is working toward building a seven-day inventory supply now to brace for any potential shortfalls in the coming weeks.

Donors are advised that they cannot get the flu by giving or receiving blood or blood products. Canadian Blood Services' clinics are clean and safe environments. Infection control measures are in place to protect donors and staff. Extra measures will be implemented if the flu season becomes more severe.

Donors are also reminded that, while they can still donate if they have received a flu vaccine, they need to wait two days after the shot before donating blood.

Sudbury residents are encouraged to contact Canadian Blood Services at 1-888-2-DONATE (1-888-236-6283) for blood donor clinic information, eligibility information or to book an appointment.

Sudbury Donor Clinic

235 Cedar Street
Sudbury, ON

Open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday and on statutory holidays.

About Canadian Blood Services

Canadian Blood Services is a national not-for-profit charitable organization that manages the blood supply in all Canadian provinces and territories (except Québec) and oversees OneMatch – the Stem Cell and Marrow Network. A dedicated team of 4,800 staff and 17,000 volunteers enable Canadian Blood Services to operate 41 permanent collection sites and more than 20,000 donor clinics annually. While Canadian Blood Services is a non-governmental organization, it receives operational funding from the Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Health, and is regulated by Health Canada. For more information, please visit: www.blood.ca.