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राष्ट्रीय रक्त संवर्ण परिषद
स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
भारत सरकार

**National Blood Transfusion Council
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India**

D.O. No.: S-12016/56/2020-NACO(BS)
25th March 2020

Sir/ Madam

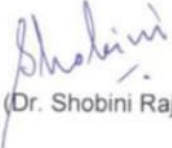
As you may be aware, Government of India had already issued a detailed advisory on preventive measures to be taken to contain the spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). Requests have however been received from several stakeholders engaged with managing blood centres and blood transfusion services regarding concerns with maintaining safety and adequacy of blood during this period of restrained gatherings and social distancing.

Blood Centers, world over, are dependent on voluntary blood donation from healthy individuals to meet their blood supplies. Since there continues to be a demand for blood and blood components, especially for those patients depending on blood transfusions as a life saving measure, like Thalassemics, or to mitigate blood loss in accident victims, pregnant women, critically sick patients etc, it is essential that supplies of safe blood continue to be maintained at licensed blood centres in the country. Activities for blood collection and voluntary blood donation therefore are required to be continued judiciously during this period to meet the blood requirements.

The guidance developed in the context of blood transfusion services is enclosed for your reference. I request all State AIDS Control Societies and State Blood Transfusion Councils to adapt or adopt the guidance to their specific needs and accordingly direct the professionals engaged in blood transfusion services to facilitate maintenance of adequate stocks of safe blood to meet requirements.

While the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare continues to monitor the situation actively, these recommendations may be considered interim till revised. It is also re-iterated that updated MoHFW guidelines with respect to protocols for COVID-19 available on <http://www.mohfw.gov.in> and other national guidelines should also be fully complied with.

You may please feel free to contact us for any further information and/or necessary directions in this regard.


(Dr. Shobini Rajan)