

Winter storms place severe pressure on the blood supply in the Western Cape

Western Cape - 19 June 2023. The Western Cape Blood Service (WCBS) is appealing to all donors to donate blood as blood stocks are critically low. "The winter is having a severe effect on our bloodstocks and we are amidst a severe blood stock shortage", says Marike Carli, Public Relations Manager at WCBS.

There is a critical shortage in the O and B blood groups, with only a 2-day supply left. The A-positive blood stocks are also under severe pressure as only a 3-day supply is left. WCBS always aim to have a blood stock level of 5 days. The winter weather is not conducive to going out, and with the continuing storms in Cape Town, they are seeing the effects on their blood stocks. Blood donors suffer from colds and flu during this time and can subsequently not donate blood - up until the resolution of their symptoms.

During June, WCBS celebrates National Blood Donor Month, as they aim to raise awareness about the importance of voluntary blood donation and the critical importance of a safe, sustainable blood supply. Thousands of patients require a life-saving blood transfusion daily in South Africa. Aside from accident and other trauma-related transfusions, patients also need transfusions to correct a low platelet count, patients suffering from immunodeficiency disorders, undergoing chemotherapy or awaiting a bone marrow transplant, during childbirth and even those undergoing heart surgeries. Blood is needed every day for patients in need.

To further raise awareness, WCBS will join myrun on **Sunday, 25 June 2023**, at their various events across the Western Cape. "We are encouraging everyone to join as we celebrate the remarkable act of saving lives through blood donation," says Carli. WCBS encourages everyone to **dress in red** or any **hero attire** to fit the theme - **be a local hero and donate blood**. On the day, capes will be distributed to all participants to symbolise that all blood donors are heroes.

For more information or to find your closest blood donation clinic, please visit www.wcbs.org.za, or download the WCBS app. Participants can register for the myrun race by visiting www.myrun.org.za.

Be a local hero, do something remarkable, and donate blood.

###

Distributed by the Western Cape Blood Service
Public Relations Manager - Marike Carli
0718563625 | marike@wcbs.org.za

 www.wcbs.org.za  info@wcbs.org.za

George
Medical Centre, Courtenay Street
PO Box 65, George, 6530
T: 044 874 2074 / F: 044 874 6097

Paarl
26 Zandwyk Industrial Park, Old Paarl Road, Paarl, 7646
PO Box 422, Paarl, 7620
T: 021 871 1031 / F: 021 872 5945

Worcester
26 Napier Street, Worcester, 6850
PO Box 194, Worcester, 6849
T: 023 342 2450 / F: 023 342 7556

Western Cape Blood Service NPC | Pr. No: 7800045 | Reg. No: 1943/016692/08

Directors: GRM Bellairs, NB du Toit, N Dhevcharran, A Huggett, CF Ingram, EC Johannes, VJ Louw, UD Mungal-Singh, DM Ndebele, M Moyo, PK Slack (Chairman), PJC Veldhuizen. Company Secretary: Themis Commercial Legal Advisors (Pty) Ltd

NOTES TO THE EDITOR:

myrun venues' start window and close times are listed below:

1. Blaauwklippen - Stellenbosch at 07:45 - 08:15 close at 09:15
2. Bloemendal Wine Estate - Durbanville at 07:15 - 08:00 close 09:00
3. Blouberg - Cape Town at 07:00 - 08:15 close 09:15
4. Imhoff Farm - Kommetjie at 07:30 - 08:15 close 09:15
5. Paardevlei - Somerset West at 07:30 - 08:15 close 09:15
6. Hart en Bosch Village - Mossel Bay at 07:15 - 08:00 close 09:00
7. Knorhoek Estate - Sir Lowry's Pass at 07:45 - 08:15 close 09:15
8. Elgin United Church - Cape Town at 07:30 - 08:00 close 09:00
9. Groot Brak - Mossel Bay on SATURDAY at 07:30 - 08:15 close 09:15
10. Carmel Coastal Retreat - George at GUNSTART AT 07:30 SHARP
11. Portland Manor - Knysna at 08:00 - 08:45 close 09:45

 www.wcbs.org.za  info@wcbs.org.za

George
Medical Centre, Courtenay Street
PO Box 65, George, 6530
T: 044 874 2074 / F: 044 874 6097

Paarl
26 Zandwyk Industrial Park, Old Paarl Road, Paarl, 7646
PO Box 422, Paarl, 7620
T: 021 871 1031 / F: 021 872 5945

Worcester
26 Napier Street, Worcester, 6850
PO Box 194, Worcester, 6849
T: 023 342 2450 / F: 023 342 7556

Western Cape Blood Service NPC | Pr. No: 7800045 | Reg. No: 1943/016692/08

Directors: GRM Bellairs, NB du Toit, N Dhevcharran, A Huggett, CF Ingram, EC Johannes, VJ Louw, UD Mungal-Singh, DM Ndebele, M Moyo, PK Slack (Chairman), PJC Veldhuizen. Company Secretary: Themis Commercial Legal Advisors (Pty) Ltd