



Torstar file photo

Canadian Blood Services is concerned about its inventory as community clinics - usually held in now-closed municipal buildings, churches or schools - are being cancelled.

BLOOD DONOR CLINIC CANCELLATIONS WILL IMPACT INVENTORY

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With a surge in community blood donor clinic cancellations across the country, including Halton, Canada's national blood system is concerned about the potential impact on its inventory.

After Canadian Blood Services (CBS) put out a plea for blood donations recently, a plug from the prime minister encouraging Canadians to give blood boosted numbers, but those numbers need to be sustained, said Elaine St. Pierre, CBS territory manager, donor relations.

"There is a constant need for blood. We need to be looking at more than just today. The blood is needed every day and it does have a short shelf life."

Patients depend on these life-saving donations, said Dr. Isra Levy, CBS' vice-president of medical affairs and innovation.

"Every day they are needed for patients undergoing surgery and cancer treatment, as well as to save lives following traumas such as motor vehicle accidents."

Mobile clinics are most often held in municipal buildings, schools or churches, all of which are now closed.

Canadian Blood Services on Brant Street in Burlington, the only permanent blood donor site in Halton, needs to collect in excess of 200 blood donations every week to help meet hospital needs, said St. Pierre. Milton, Halton Hills and Oakville rely on mobile clinics.

"March break was already going to be a challenging week, with many of our regular donors on vacation, so to add in the events of the last few days and the panic surrounding social distancing, it's so important for us to calm the fears of those hesitant to continue donating."

CBS needs blood coming in every day, because it goes out the door each day, with Canadian hospitals using approximately 16,000 units of blood every week, she added.

Regional blood donations go into a national inventory where products are "regularly shifted around the country to meet hospital and patient needs," said Levy.

The CBS region encompassing Burlington also stretches as far as Hamilton and major blood donor clinics have been cancelled in the city too, including a three-day event at McMaster University, with an expected intake of 300 blood donations, as well as one within the Dofasco plant.

With no sign that closures and social distancing requirements will ease any time soon, April clinics listed on the CBS website for Oakville, Halton Hills and Milton should be confirmed by visiting Blood.ca.

In the interim while CBS works through this critical challenge, it is directing local clients to the Burlington blood donation centre.

Limits have been implemented to reduce the number of people in the centre at one time. Appointments must be made first by going to Blood.ca, or by calling 1-888-236-6283.

Donor beds are a minimum of six feet apart and there is enhanced cleaning of equipment and surfaces.

As for the safety of the blood supply, there is absolutely no evidence COVID-19 can be transmitted through a blood transfusion, said St. Pierre.

"It is not a blood transmitted disease. By screening properly in terms of risk factors, we are ensuring that the supply is safe. We have that record of historically being able to respond both quickly and effectively to various public health issues in the past, demonstrated by our ability to manage through West Nile virus, H1N1, SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome), and Zika (virus)."

For more information on donating blood during the pandemic, visit Blood.ca/covid19.

UCHS response to COVID-19

To keep our staff and public safe during COVID-19, we have implemented a number of changes.

- Reduced hours at the shelter. Staff will be on site daily to care for the animals;
- Pre-approved visits for the animals by appointment only
- Closure of the UCHS Thrift Shop
- Cancellation of the April rabies clinic



Please visit uppercredit.com for more information and updates on our COVID-19 response.



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tandia™ financial
credit union

REVISED NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Tandia Financial Credit Union Limited
Tuesday April 7, 2020

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the annual general meeting of the members of Tandia Financial Credit Union Limited will be held on Tuesday April 7, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. by audio webcast as permitted by the Credit Union's by-laws. Members can register in advance to participate on the tandia.com website and will be provided with a link to join. The audio webcast will be interactive, enabling members to cast votes on matters considered at the meeting, and to ask questions using a chat function.

The purpose of this meeting is:

- To receive the report of the Board of Directors and the Chief Executive Officer's report, the financial statements and auditors' report, and the Audit and Operational Risk Committee's report;
- To appoint the auditor;
- To announce acclaimed Directors and voting results for the Special Resolution and By-law amendment;
- To transact such other business as may properly come before an annual meeting of members.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
Richard Davies, Corporate Secretary

A website edition of the 2019 annual report is available on the tandia.com website.

Voting on Special Resolution and By-law Amendment

As special business, the members of the Credit Union will be considering the following that requires a membership vote:

- A proposed Special Resolution changes the Credit Union's head office address to 3455 North Service Road Unit 100, Burlington Ontario.
- A proposed By-law amendment relates to 4.01 Number of Directors and Quorum and updates the number of Board members, remaining at 9 but by Board Special Resolution temporarily allowing for up to 12 until the next annual general meeting and removes the transition numbers that were previously established for amalgamation purposes.

Members aged 18 and over holding \$25.00 in Member Shares are eligible to vote. Voting will take place from March 9 - 20, 2020. Online voting (through online banking) will be available from Monday March 9 at 8 a.m. through Monday March 20 at 5 p.m. Alternatively, members may vote at any branch location during regular branch hours. Corporations, Partnerships and Unincorporated Associations can only cast their vote through a written proxy available at any branch, signed by the President or other authorized officer of such entity and by appointing one person to vote in-branch on its behalf.

This voting process has now concluded, and the results will be announced at the audio webcast meeting.

For complete information about the Special Resolution, By-law amendment, voter eligibility or the voting process, please visit our website.

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