

We can all save lives by donating a pint of blood, says KZN health MEC, as blood bank is left with enough blood for just three days.

03 January 2018

NOBODY should die in a hospital in KwaZulu-Natal just because there is a shortage of blood. And we, the public, can make all the difference to ensure that this does not happen. This is the message from KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, who today once again donated a pint of blood at a South African National Blood Service depot at Umlazi Mega City.

With the main source of blood – students – being away for the holidays, and factories closed, the SANBS currently has enough blood to last just 3 days in KwaZulu-Natal.

MEC Dhlomo, who is a regular universal O-blood type donor, said: “We often hear of a shortage of blood and that is always concerning because if there’s a shortage, then it means you can’t access blood from our hospitals. So, I’m here to give my contribution but also to plead with South Africans consider donating a pint of blood. One pint of blood can help a pregnant woman who has bled too much, or a cancer patient who needs it, or someone who may be in an accident. So, it’s a gift of life. And it’s a great thing because you’re giving it to someone you don’t even know. And you yourself may need that blood tomorrow. It’s a good thing to do. In fact, it is Godly, because it’s about giving another person the precious gift of life. I would wish that nobody should die in a hospital just because we are short of blood. We all need to mitigate against that.”

In order to become a blood donor you must:

- Weigh at least 50kg
- Be between the ages of 16-65
- Lead a safe sexual lifestyle
- Be in general good health; and
- Consider your blood safe for transfusion to a patient.