

## PRESS RELEASE

# **Coronavirus: in the last days an impressive donors' response Continue booking donation to ensure transfusions to 1800 patients every day**

***“Thank you donors and blood system operators, schedule donation to avoid new crises”***

The appeals of the past few days have led to an "impressive" influx of donors in all regions allowing not only to replenish blood supply but also to ensure interregional compensation. This is what emerges from a first analysis of the Italian National Blood Centre with the representatives of the Regional Coordinating Centres. However, the need to continue giving blood to guarantee therapies in the coming days has been emphasized as well as the recommendation to book the donation by telephone to avoid crowding and to ensure that, with timely scheduling, there is a constant availability of blood for all patients in the coming weeks.

“The national Information System (Sistra), which monitors regional availability and shortages, showed a surplus of almost 900 bags throughout the national territory.

An impressive result for which we have to thank donors, but also all the operators of the blood collection units, from the physicians to the nurses to the volunteers of the associations and all the health and non-health personnel who work at the blood establishments – stated Giancarlo Maria Liumbruno, Director general of the Italian National Blood Centre -. Solidarity must go on because 1800 patients need transfusions everyday. We recommend to book donations by phone in order to have scheduled collections that allow us to have stable supply, to guarantee constant and adequate therapies, and to overcome the emergency linked to the coronavirus”.

The influx of both new and regular donors has been quite significant in all regions, including those regions most affected by the emergency, such as Lombardy, which has even made 110 bags available for the other regions. “The response has been extraordinary



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nationwide – stated Gianpietro Briola, Coordinator of the national Blood Donors Federation (CIVIS) -. All the associations are committed to ensuring safe donations following the recommendations such as booking donation by phone that allows not only to avoid crowding, but also to carefully plan donors flows".