<u>Call for blood donations before</u> Chinese New Year

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service (BTS) spokesman today (January 20) appealed to members of the public to donate blood before Chinese New Year and to make prior appointment so as to prevent crowd gathering and long waiting time. As blood collection continues to drop amid the cold weather and the epidemic, blood inventories have depleted to a very low level. BTS appealed members of the public to donate blood to maintain a stable blood supply for clinical transfusion to patients.

As a token of thanks, every blood donor who donates successfully at donor centres or the blood donation vehicle will receive a set of red packet pouch set (see annex), while stocks last.

BTS welcomes members of the public to make appointment for blood donation by calling the BTS' donor centres, via the "HK Blood" mobile apps or on-line booking at BTS website. For details, please visit www.ha.org.hk/rcbts.