## Public urged to donate blood

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service (BTS) today (November 13) appealed to members of the public to donate blood and replenish blood inventories to maintain a stable blood supply for clinical transfusion to patients. In light of the uncertain pandemic situation, mobile blood donation services to corporate settings and schools have been seriously affected. Blood collection continues to be at a record low for both donor centres and the mobile services.

As a token of thanks, from tomorrow (November 14) to November 22, every blood donor who donates successfully at a donor centre or blood donation vehicle will receive two bottles of vitamin C-rich bottled juice (see Annex). Vitamin C can help boost the absorption of iron and enhance immunity. The gift is available on a first-come, first-served basis while stocks last.

To prevent crowds from gathering and long waiting times at the donor centres, donors are advised to make appointments by calling the BTS' donor centres or via the "HK Blood" mobile app. For details, please visit www.ha.org.hk/rcbts.

The "HK Blood" mobile app can be downloaded via the following link to locate the nearest donor centres across the city and make blood donation bookings: <u>www5.ha.org.hk/rcbts/mobile-app</u>.