<u>Public urged to donate blood (with photo)</u>

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service (BTS) today (January 20) appealed to members of the public to donate blood, as blood collection continues to be at a record low for both donor centres and mobile service amid the cold weather and the epidemic. The blood inventories have been depleted to a low level and have to be duly replenished to maintain a stable blood supply for clinical transfusion to patients.

As a token of thanks, from now until February 11, all blood donors who donate successfully at donor centres and the blood donation vehicle will receive a red packet pouch set. The set, which contains 10 red packets with blood types as the theme and one red packet pouch, is available on a firstcome, 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: www5.ha.org.hk/rcbts/mobile-app.

