<u>Public urged to give blood during the</u> <u>holidays</u>

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service (BTS) today (September 29) appealed to members of the public to donate blood during the holidays as blood collection has dropped amid the pandemic as well as during the unsettled weather. The blood inventories have to be duly replenished to maintain a stable blood supply for clinical transfusion to patients.

As a token of thanks, all successful blood donors (till October 4) will receive an "I'm a blood donor" denim cooler bag (see Annex 1), 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. Most of the BTS' donor centres are open during the long holiday for National Day and the Mid-Autumn Festival (see Annex 2). Members of the public can browse the following website for the addresses and opening hours of blood donor centres: www.ha.org.hk/rcbts.

The "HK Blood" 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.