# IBTS urges donors to ensure that blood is available for patients over the Christmas period

The IBTS is urging donors to make a special effort to give blood leading up to and over the Christmas and New Year period. This is especially important following the cancellation of a number of blood donation clinics as a consequence of Storm Barra and the on-going challenges with donor availability due to COVID-19.

“We need to collect 12,000 donations before and during the Christmas period, to safely support the health service into the New Year” said Barry Doyle, Acting Operations Director.

“We are arranging extra clinics on Sunday 19th December, Friday 24th and Friday 31st December. We are also arranging clinics on the public holidays the 28th December and Monday January 3rd. These clinics are especially vital for collecting blood for young babies, who can only receive blood which is no more than 5 days old since collection.

“On any given day 200 patients receive transfusions in Irish hospitals, and the demand for blood, even over Christmas, is constant. We rely on our donors and are urging them to give a priceless gift this Christmas, the gift of life.

 “Donor appointments are done entirely on the phone with donors being pre-screened before an appointment is made for them to attend the donation clinic, to avoid unnecessary attendance. We are asking donors to help us support the health service by making an appointment when they receive a text from us.

Further clinic information also can be found on [www.giveblood.ie](http://www.giveblood.ie),” he added.

We would also like to thank donors for their support in what has been a very challenging year for everybody and to continue that support into 2022.

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