

# Blood Product Shortage

- ❑ Since the start of the COVID pandemic, there has been a **national shortage of blood products** and the American Red Cross reserve of blood products is now exhausted
- ❑ The blood products supplied to Upstate will now be **severely restricted, particularly type O RBCs (O+ and O-)**
- ❑ We will be instating new changes at **both hospitals** to adapt to this new reality
- ❑ If blood is **emergently** needed and the patient's **blood type is unknown**, **O+** RBCs will be transfused. This exposes the patient to the risk of sensitization to Rh, but is the only option for these critical transfusions.



## ED/Trauma fridge

- ❑ The 2 RBC units stored in the ED/trauma fridge will be **O+** rather than **O-**



## Massive Transfusion Policy

- ❑ For patients whose blood type is unknown, **O+** RBCs will be used for **ALL PATIENTS** (including women and children of all ages) starting with **cooler #1**
- ❑ MTPs should be discontinued as soon as the patient is stabilized and no longer needs massive transfusion

## RBCs sent to OR for surgeries

- ❑ Requests for RBCs to the ORs/procedure suites **prior** to surgery/procedure are filled as asked
- ❑ However, **>80%** of blood product units sent this way are **never transfused**
- ❑ Following best care at major centers, we will begin using a Maximal Surgical Blood Ordering Schedule (MSBOS) to guide how many RBCs to be sent to the OR/procedure suite depending on the surgery/procedure
- ❑ Additional blood products may be ordered during the surgery or procedure, if needed



For questions, please contact the Transfusion Medicine service through the Blood Bank (464-6701 Downtown, 492-5287 Community)