

HHS Blood Safety & Availability

The HHS Blood Safety & Availability liaison provide the federal government with a coordinated focal point for issues related to the safety and availability of the U.S. blood supply during preparations, exercises, and activations of the federal emergency infrastructure. The “Blood Safety” Liaison provides coordination of HHS Agency-related public health concerns (e.g., those at FDA, CDC, and CMS) for issues impacting the safety and availability of the Blood Supply throughout the United States, and likewise provides coordination with the private-sector Blood Industry (e.g., American Red Cross, America’s Blood Centers, and members of AABB).

The HHS Blood Safety liaison assesses the safety and availability of the U.S. blood supply using various data sources, principally voluntarily provided by owners and operators of the Community Blood Collection Centers (numbering >100) and Hospital-based Blood Banks (numbering ~3,000). Such all-hazards related blood supply assessments are provided directly to the HHS Secretary’s Operations Center (SOC), the Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH), the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness & Response (ASPR), and relevant HHS staff working in Agencies with blood safety/availability responsibilities (e.g., FDA and CDC).

The HHS Blood Safety liaison also interacts directly with the private-sector’s AABB Inter-organizational Task Force on Domestic Disasters and Acts of Terrorism (the “AABB Task Force”) to provide a coordination of cross public-private sector efforts towards assuring a safe and available blood supply, such as logistic movement of blood products and public messaging to blood donors. This AABB Task Force is constituted with members of each blood collection organization (i.e., American Red Cross, America’s Blood Centers, and Blood Centers of America), the American Hospital Association, the American Association of Tissue Banks, and the Department of Defense. Using established Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), the *AABB Task Force* and HHS provide direct coordination of the safety and availability of the U.S. blood supply, including important data collection, logistic requirements, blood product(s) supply/movement, and emergency public messaging.

Last Updated: July 13, 2016