

Managing critical supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic



Global impact

The world is experiencing challenges in supply chains and logistics across all sectors and industries as a result of COVID-19. As we navigate the changing pandemic conditions, we are likely to see these challenges continue for some time to come.

What can your Blood Service do?

- 1** Consider **assigning a dedicated procurement team** to manage stock levels, ordering, distribution and shortages, and to maintain supplier relationships
- 2** **Increase monitoring** of current stock and future supply needs
- 3** **Maintain frequent and regular dialogue** on the status of essential supplies with...
 - National Society
 - Ministry of Health/Health Department
 - Current and potential new suppliers
 - Other blood centers/providers and health organizations
 - Local WHO office or Supply Chain Task Force Coordinator (*see 5 below*)

Be aware of any anticipated changes or challenges
- 4** Have **well planned contingencies** in place and documented, such as...
 - increased minimum stock levels, where possible
 - multiple storage sites, for assured access in the event of site closures
 - consider/list multiple and alternative supplier sources
 - engage and establish relationships with trustworthy suppliers
- 5** **Use country consolidated procurement systems** and established mechanisms where necessary, such as the United Nations (UN) / World Health Organization (WHO) Supply Chain Task Force for ordering critical supplies. *For more information on this, see below.*

WHO COVID-19 Supply Chain System: Requesting and Receiving Supplies

In response to the major impact the pandemic has had on supply chains, the UN has collaborated with WHO to create a country-consolidated procurement system for essential supplies during COVID-19. Managed by the WHO Supply Chain Task Force and other partner organizations (including Red Cross and Federation), the system consists of a *forecasting tool*, an item *catalogue*, and an *ordering portal*. Refer to the *FAQ sheet*, *document links*, or your local WHO country office for more information and how to register.

What items are available?

Supplies including, but not limited to...

- personal protective equipment (gloves, face shields, masks and gowns)
- rapid/PCR diagnostic test kits
- monitoring devices

Shipping of essential items is provided free of charge



More resources are available. Go to our GAP website for the full list:
<https://globaladvisorypanel.org/resources/covid-19-resources>