

Access the entire webinar series here:

<https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/lessons-learned-in-healthcare-operations-during-a-pandemic-speaker-series-summary.pdf>

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T R A C I E

HEALTHCARE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS  
INFORMATION GATEWAY

# Healthcare Operations during the COVID-19 Pandemic- Speaker Series

September 2021

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Access speaker bios here:

Mr. David Green: <https://www.vitalant.org/Our-Organization/Leadership>

Mr. Leo DeBandi: <https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/debandi-speaker-bio.pdf>

Mr. Brian Gannon: <https://www.giveblood.org/about-us/executive-staff>

Dr. Claudia Cohn: <https://med.umn.edu/bio/lab-med-and-pathology-faculty/claudia-cohn>

# Managing the Nation's Blood Supply During the COVID-19 Pandemic



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**David R. Green**

President & Chief Executive Officer, Vitalant  
President, AABB

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# Objectives

- Provide background on AABB and the blood community.
- Highlight major challenges with the blood supply that arose during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Review efforts implemented to ensure the availability of the blood supply.
- Highlight opportunities to strengthen the resiliency of the blood supply.



# Background: AABB

## Mission

Improving lives by making transfusion medicine and biotherapies safe, available, and effective worldwide.

## Vision

A connected community dedicated to advancing transfusion medicine and biotherapies. From donor to patient. From lab to bedside.



# The Blood System

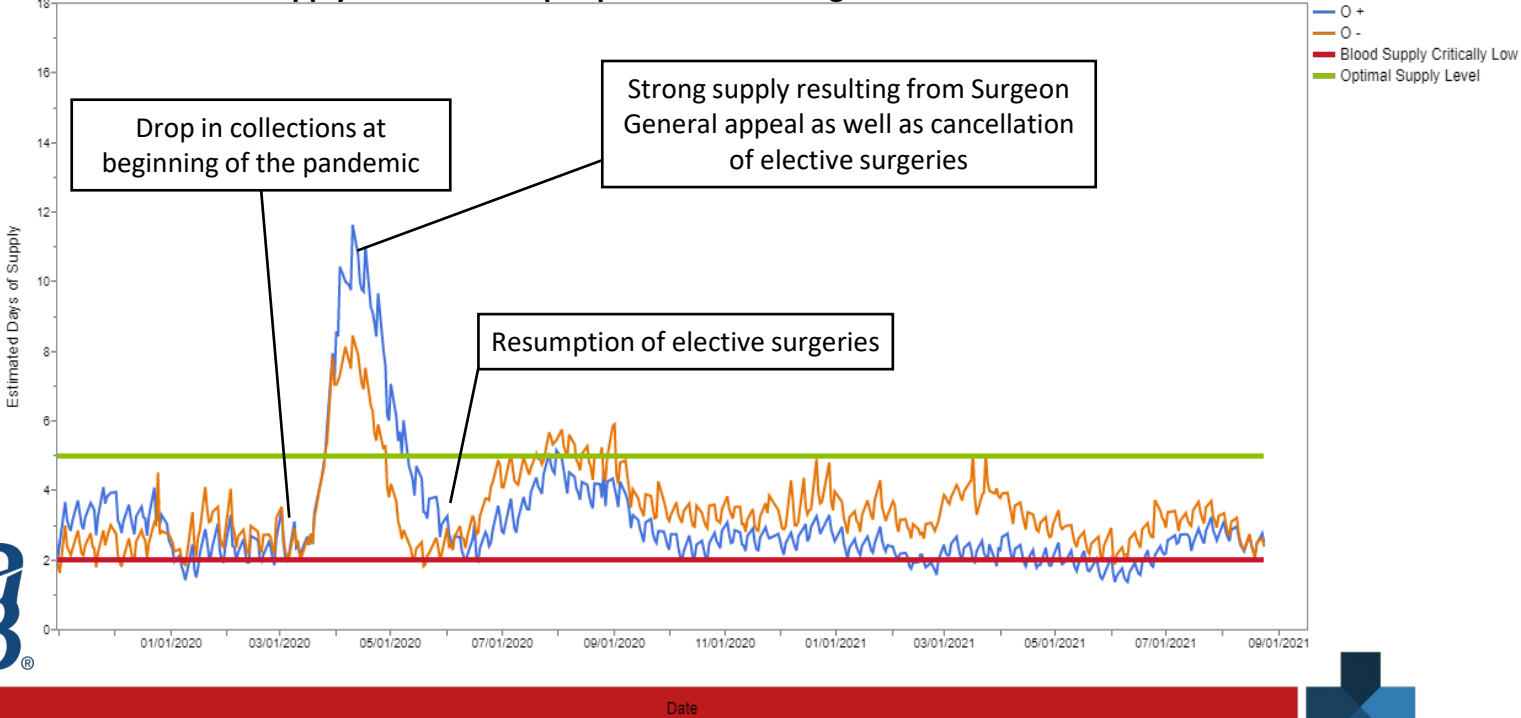


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# Blood Supply: Changes in Collection and Utilization

Supply Trend of Group O positive and O negative: 2020 - 2021



# Blood Supply Chain: Vulnerabilities

- Supplies used to manufacture blood components are manufactured offshore or are produced by one manufacturer.
- Challenges obtaining supplies, such as personal protective equipment (PPE), saline, reagents and vaccines.
- Staff of both blood centers and hospitals were lean before the pandemic and were impacted by quarantines due to exposures.
- Challenges with transporting blood products and testing samples if commercial flights and courier services are disrupted.





# COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma



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# AABB Convened the Blood Community Throughout the Pandemic by:

- Sponsoring the AABB Interorganizational Disaster Task Force.
- Engaging with the national media to highlight challenges with maintaining the blood supply.
- Rallying the blood community to help maintain the blood supply.
- Partnering with private-sector organizations to help people identify local blood collectors.
- Providing educational programs, updates on regulatory developments and resources related to blood utilization.
- Facilitating communication and coordination between blood collectors and hospitals.





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## Leo DeBandi

Vice President, Analytics, Production and Inventory Planning, American Red Cross  
Vice Chair, AABB Interorganizational Task Force on Domestic Disasters and Acts of  
Terrorism

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# Efforts to Manage Challenges with Blood Supply: AABB Interorganizational Disaster Task Force

- Established in January 2002
- Purpose:
  - Help ensure that blood collection efforts resulting from domestic disasters and acts of terrorism are managed properly.
  - Deliver clear and consistent messages to the public regarding the status of America's blood supply.



# AABB Interorganizational Disaster Task Force: Composition

## Designated Coordinating Body for Task Force

- AABB

## Critical Event Assessment Group (CEAG):

- AABB
- America's Blood Centers
- American Red Cross
- Blood Centers of America
- Liaison: Armed Services Blood Program
- Liaison: HHS Office of Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH)

## Additional Members of Task Force:

- American Hospital Association
- College of American Pathologists
- AdvaMed
- National Marrow Donor Program
- Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association
- Liaison: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Liaison: Food and Drug Administration



# AABB Interorganizational Disaster Task Force: Emergency Chain of Events

- AABB immediately convenes a meeting of the CEAG to assess environment.
- Local blood centers:
  - Estimate blood needs.
  - Assess available local supply.
  - Identify any infrastructure-related issues.
  - Communicate that information to the Task Force.
- CEAG determines strategy and coordinates efforts:
  - Transporting and coordinating needed blood and supplies to the affected area.
  - Constructing message to the blood community and donors.
  - Coordinating broad public message in conjunction with HHS.
  - Identifying priorities and determining next steps until event has been resolved.
- CEAG communicates findings to other members of the Task Force and helps advance the identified activities.





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## **Brian Gannon, MBA**

President & Chief Executive Officer, Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center

Chair, AABB Interorganizational Task Force on Domestic Disasters and Acts of Terrorism



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# AABB Interorganizational Disaster Task Force: Pandemic Response

- Activated in March 2020 when blood center in Washington state reported that blood supply was threatened.
- Contacted and coordinated with blood centers across the nation to help avoid a shortage in the impacted area.
- Public-private composition enabled community to quickly come together and identify opportunities to support the nation.
- Issued multiple public messages appealing for blood donors and supporting the safety of blood donation.
- Responded to several other events that limited ability of donors to travel to donate, created transportation difficulties, and/or complicated the ability to transport blood to hospitals.







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**Claudia S. Cohn, MD, PhD**

Chief Medical Officer, AABB

Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Director, Blood Bank Laboratory,  
Associate Director, Clinical Laboratories, University of Minnesota

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# Blood Supply Challenges: Compounded by Limitations with Data

- Blood inventory data is flawed.
  - Manual
  - Decentralized process that captures data from different reporting organizations
  - No visibility into regional blood availability
  - No data reflecting hospitals' inventories
- Changes in utilization are not monitored or reported in real-time.



# Hospital – Blood Center Communications and Collaboration



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# Opportunities to Improve the Resiliency of the Blood Supply and Strengthen the Nation's Preparedness and Response Capabilities

- Integrate blood collection establishments, the AABB Interorganizational Disaster Task Force, and considerations related to the safety and availability of the blood supply into federal, state, and local pandemic and disaster preparedness and response policies.
- All preparedness and response efforts should incorporate monitoring and communicating changes in blood availability and utilization.
  - Local blood collectors
  - AABB Interorganizational Disaster Task Force
  - Hospitals' plans should include strategies that address the risk for blood shortages
- Better leverage the blood community's expertise and proven capabilities in surveillance, screening and testing for infectious disease agents.
- Raise awareness about the importance of blood donation.



# Contact ASPR TRACIE



[asprtracie.hhs.gov](https://asprtracie.hhs.gov)



1-844-5-TRACIE



[askasprtracie@hhs.gov](mailto:askasprtracie@hhs.gov)