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**INFORMATION ONLY**

Routine K1 (Kell) Phenotype Testing

Customer Letter # 2018-46

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2018-11-19

Dear Colleagues:

Canadian Blood Services will be implementing a revised K (Kell) phenotype testing strategy on November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

- All donors who have not been previously K phenotyped will have K antigen testing performed.
- The K phenotype, if negative, will appear on the end label.
- This change will impact all donors of any ABO group.
- All donations collected on or after November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 that are NOT labeled as K negative, should be presumed Kell positive.

The expanded K negative inventory will allow transfusion services to direct K negative red cells to those patients at greatest risk for anti-K alloimmunization, including female patients of child bearing potential.

Please share a copy of this customer letter with relevant physicians at your hospital who might be interested in this information.

This customer letter can also be viewed at [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca) in the “Hospitals” section. If you have questions about this letter, or if you require it in an accessible format, please contact your local hospital liaison specialist.

Sincerely,



Rick Prinzen  
Chief Supply Chain Officer and Vice-President, Donor Relations