



Jordan Valley Community Health Center  
Courtney Furgerson  
417-773-2375  
cfurgerson@jordanvalley.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Jordan Valley Community Health Center and HHS partner to expand access to monoclonal antibody therapy to treat COVID-19 patients**

Springfield, MO (July 29, 2021) -- Jordan Valley Community Health Center, Missouri's largest Federally Qualified Health Center, in partnership with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), announced today that it has expanded access to COVID-19 monoclonal antibody (mAb) at multiple locations. For people who have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus and are at high risk for developing severe illness, this promising mAb treatment has been shown to help prevent progression of the disease that might otherwise require hospitalization.

With a rapidly spreading Delta virus variant, the state of Missouri is in the midst of a major surge in COVID-19 cases—over 10,000 cases in the past 7 days or nearly 200 cases per 100,000 residents. In response to the growing need for medical care in the region, Jordan Valley Community Health Center will be offering the mAb treatment at three of its locations. As of today, eligible patients can receive the mAb infusion at the Springfield: Express Care and Lebanon locations. Beginning August 4th, mAb therapy will also be available at the Hollister location. To confirm eligibility for the treatment, receive a referral, and book an appointment, patients should contact 1-833-TREAT-COVID (1-833-873-2826).

If administered within 10 days of onset of COVID-19 symptoms, the one-time therapy is highly effective in neutralizing the virus and preventing symptoms from worsening. The treatment is administered through intravenous infusion.

"As a community health center, we are committed to ensuring that our community has access to COVID-19 care," said Dr. Matthew Stinson, Executive Vice President of Jordan Valley Community Health Center. "Providing monoclonal antibody treatments to COVID-19 positive patients not only fulfills our mission as an organization, but allows us to play a part in helping our state recover from this pandemic.

"As the Delta variant rapidly spreads through the state of Missouri, we are honored to be a part of this important health equity initiative and do our part to help patients recover and prevent further spread of the disease," he continued.

"Missouri is now on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19 and the Delta Variant, and we are fortunate to have such dedicated health professionals in our state who are rising to the challenges of this new spread of COVID-19 cases. Nowhere is that clearer than at Jordan Valley Health Center," said Robert Knodell, Acting Director of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. "We still have a lot of work to do to get beyond this virus, so we are pleased to support more access to monoclonal antibody therapy treatments as a key part of our state plan to crush the virus and save lives. We are very pleased to support the incredible staff at Jordan Valley to expand treatment to underserved patients as part of this initiative, bringing a faster recovery and hope to patients across Missouri."

On March 17, 2021, HHS announced it was investing \$150 million to increase access to mAb therapy for high-risk patients in underserved and disadvantaged communities across the country. With support from KPMG LLP, HHS is developing new prototype models for expanding access to mAb treatment and leveraging an existing network of health care partners to provide the therapy for underserved and disadvantaged populations.

Jordan Valley Health Center is the first provider organization in Missouri to join this health equity initiative and joins a growing list of mAbs therapy providers supported by KPMG and sponsored by HHS as part of the federal effort to help end COVID-19 and improve health equity in underserved communities across the country. In addition to the three sites in Missouri, nearly 30 sites have now been established or expanded under this initiative in Landover, MD; San Diego, CA; Detroit, MI; Barnstable County, MA; Houston, TX; Beckley, WV; Worcester, MA, and western Michigan.

"People across the country continue to test positive for COVID-19, and many of them are still at great risk of severe hospitalization and even death from this virus," said Dr. John Redd, chief medical officer for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. "We encourage anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 to discuss with their healthcare provider if monoclonal antibody treatment is right for them. We are pleased to partner with leaders in the medical community, like Jordan Valley Community Health Center, to make this treatment more accessible."

The therapy is the first COVID-19 treatment granted emergency use authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for outpatient use. A Phase 3 clinical trial showed that the antibody therapy reduced the risk of hospitalization or death by up to 87% in patients who received the drug intravenously compared to those who received a placebo.

Jordan Valley Community Health Center will be able to treat up to 40 patients per week. To be eligible for mAb treatment, patients must meet the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) definition of "high risk." Same-day COVID-19 tests can be performed, followed by a telemedicine visit for evaluation and qualification for therapy. The infusion treatment takes up to one hour, then patients are monitored for an hour. There is no cost to the patient and treatment is offered regardless of immigration status or health insurance.

**Jordan Valley Community Health Center** is a Federally Qualified Health Center. Our mission is to improve our community's health through access and relationships. We are committed to providing quality medical, dental, vision and behavioral health services at our eight clinic locations serving southwest Missouri.

#### **About Federally Qualified Health Centers**

For more than 50 years, health centers have delivered affordable, accessible, quality and cost-effective primary health care services to patients with the support and oversight of the Health Resources and Services Administration. Today, nearly 1,400 health centers operate approximately 12,000 service delivery sites nationwide.

**About Crush COVID:** A treatment for COVID-19 is here and is available in every state at hundreds of locations across the country. With the help of KPMG, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), state and local health departments, and local hospitals and health clinics, eligible patients will have increased access to mAb treatment in a growing number of underserved and disadvantaged communities through this initiative. Authorized by the FDA, monoclonal antibody therapy (mAb) is available to patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are considered at high risk for progressing to severe COVID-19 and/or hospitalization. To learn more about eligibility and find a treatment location near you, visit <https://crushcovid.com>.