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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hattiesburg Clinic, MSDH and HHS partner to expand access to monoclonal antibody therapy to COVID-19 patients in south Mississippi

HATTIESBURG, Miss., (Aug. 25, 2021) -- Hattiesburg Clinic, in partnership with the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), announced today that it expanded access to COVID-19 monoclonal antibody (mAb) treatments and will begin administering the therapies at the [Cough and Fever Clinic](#) location in Hattiesburg. For people who are at high risk for developing severe COVID-19 illness and have tested positive for the COVID-19 virus or are unvaccinated and have been exposed to someone who has tested positive, this promising mAb treatment has been shown to help prevent progression of the disease that might otherwise require hospitalization.

With the rapid spread of the Delta variant and a major surge in COVID-19 case rates, Hattiesburg Clinic will be offering expanded access to the mAb infusion services. The clinic has increased its capacity from 100 treatments per week to 277 treatments per week. These services are now available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. To confirm eligibility for the treatment and to book an appointment, patients can call (601) 261-1633, or if patients have an Iris account, they can log into the patient portal and schedule an appointment.

If administered within 10 days of the 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 infusion therapy.

"This is another welcome partnership that has come during a critical time for our community," said Hattiesburg Clinic Chief Executive Officer Bryan N. Batson, MD. "Our COVID-positive cases have shattered all records from last year, and our medical resources and facilities are stretched thin due to the latest resurgence of cases."

"People are getting very sick. People are needlessly dying. Our ability to offer these therapies seven days a week will save lives and will help lessen the stress of our already-overwhelmed health care system," he continued.

"Mississippi is on the leading edge of the worldwide fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, and nowhere is that clearer than at Hattiesburg Clinic," Dr. Thomas Dobbs, state health officer of the Mississippi Department of Health, said. "We are not out of the woods yet, and this new monoclonal antibody therapy treatment, along with the federal funding that supports it, is a key part of our national plan to crush the virus and save lives. It's a testament to the amazing leadership and staff at Hattiesburg Clinic that they were chosen to offer this treatment as part of this initiative, bringing healing and hope to patients here in Mississippi."

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.

Hattiesburg Clinic joins this national initiative and a growing list of mAb 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 Hattiesburg, more than 40 infusion sites have been established or expanded under this initiative in Landover, Md.; San Diego.; Detroit.; Barnstable County, Mass.; Houston; Beckley, W.Va.; Worcester, Mass.; western Michigan; southern Missouri and northeast South Carolina.

The mAb 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 70% in patients who received the drug intravenously compared to those who received a placebo

[The emergency use authorization provides information on eligibility for mAb treatment.](#) The infusion treatment can take from 20-70 minutes, with an observation time afterward. Treatment is offered regardless of immigration status, health insurance coverage, or ability to pay.

About Hattiesburg Clinic:

Hattiesburg Clinic is Mississippi's largest privately-owned, multispecialty clinic. More than 55 years after its beginning, the clinic has grown to over 450 physicians and providers, caring for patients in more than 17 counties in South Mississippi. Along with over 2,000 professional staff employees, these physicians and providers come together for a common purpose, to serve the over 500,000 community members who live and work in South Mississippi every day.

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>.