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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Jackson Hospital, Alabama Public Health, and HHS partner to expand access to monoclonal antibody therapy to COVID-19 patients**

MONTGOMERY, Ala., (Oct. 13, 2021) -- Jackson Hospital, in partnership with Alabama Public Health and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), announced that it expanded access to COVID-19 monoclonal antibody (mAb) treatments at its main location. 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, Jackson Hospital will be expanding access to the mAb treatment at 2024 Chestnut St., Montgomery AL, 36106. As part of this expansion, once fully staffed, Jackson Hospital will be able to treat up to 180 patients a week. Beginning October 14, patients can receive the mAb treatment Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. To confirm eligibility for the treatment and book an appointment, patients should contact 334-293-8517.

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. Jackson Hospital will be administering the treatment through infusion therapy.

“As an organization, we are committed to improving the health of our community by providing superior, patient-centered and cost-effective care in a safe, compassionate environment,” said Jackson Hospital CEO Joe Riley “Our ability to offer the mAbs treatment allows us to better care for the underserved communities in our region during this vulnerable time.”

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.

Jackson Hospital is the fourth organization in Alabama to join this initiative. It 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 Jackson Hospital location, more than 70 infusion 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; western Michigan; southern Missouri, northeast South Carolina, southern Mississippi,

northern Mississippi, central Mississippi, south central North Carolina, south central Louisiana, Washington, D.C., several regions of Alabama, and western Tennessee.

“We are pleased to support the efforts of Jackson Hospital to expand the access to monoclonal antibody therapy to underserved patients in central Alabama,” State Health Officer Dr. Scott Harris, Alabama Public Health, said. “We are seeing unprecedented numbers of patients infected with COVID-19. This new monoclonal antibody therapy, along with the federal funding that supports it, is an important part of the national plan to end this COVID-19 pandemic.”

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 [FDA emergency use authorization](#) provides additional information on eligibility for mAb treatment. Treatment is offered regardless of immigration status, health insurance coverage, or ability to pay.

#### **About Jackson Hospital:**

Founded in 1946, Jackson Hospital ranks among the largest hospitals in Alabama and is nationally recognized for the excellence in care it has traditionally provided to all who use its services. Jackson is a certified Advanced Primary Stroke Center and has received the Gold Seal of Certification from the Joint Commission for Spine Surgery, Heart Attack Care (AMI), Bariatric Surgery, and Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) repair. Jackson Hospital has also earned the Blue Cross Blue Shield Distinction Center for Knee and Hip Replacement, Bariatric Surgery and Spine Surgery. For more information, visit [www.Jackson.org](http://www.Jackson.org).

#### **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>.