



CONTACT:

Nick Dorety

Marketing and Communications Consultant

Phone: 405-610-8589

Email: Nicholas.Dorety@ssmhealth.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital – Midwest, OSDH, and HHS partner to expand access to monoclonal antibody therapy to COVID-19 patients

Midwest City, OK, (October 25, 2021) -- SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital – Midwest, in partnership with the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), announced it has expanded access to COVID-19 monoclonal antibody (mAb) treatment at its SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital – Midwest 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.

“We are thrilled to be joining health care systems across the country in expanding access to mAb treatment for our COVID-19 patients, especially those in underserved communities in our area,” said Dr. Kevin L. Lewis, President, SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital – Midwest & Regional President of SSM Health Medical Group Oklahoma. “Today’s announcement is another step forward in closing the gap in health disparities and saving lives in our community.”

“This partnership comes at a critical time. This initiative will not only help reduce the strain on our hospitals, but it will also help COVID-19 positive patients recover from the virus and return to their lives,” he continued. “Expanding access to this free treatment is a game-changer for our community.”

Beginning October 25, patients can receive the mAb treatment Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To confirm eligibility for the treatment and book an appointment, patients should contact 405-610-1698. The treatment location is SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital – Midwest 2825 Parklawn Drive Midwest City, OK 73110.

As part of this expansion, SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital – Midwest will increase the number of patients it can treat from 36 to 80 per week.

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. SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital – Midwest will be administering the treatment through infusion therapy.

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.

SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital – Midwest is the first provider organization in Oklahoma to join this national 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. The Initiative now includes 28 prototype models, supported by KPMG and sponsored by HHS, to increase access to mAb therapy at over 80 infusion locations in 17 states.

“The state of Oklahoma is committed to doing everything it can to fight COVID-19,” said Keith Reed, Interim Commissioner of Health, Oklahoma State Department of Health. “SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital – Midwest has answered the call to action and will continue to play a crucial role in our mission. Expanding access to monoclonal antibody treatment, with the help of federal funding, is playing a key role in the national effort to crush COVID-19 and save lives in our communities.”

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 SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital – Midwest:

SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital – Midwest provides exceptional health care services to the residents of Eastern Oklahoma County and beyond, including Midwest City and surrounding communities, with a focus on cardiology, orthopedics, surgery and behavioral health. The hospital is part of SSM Health Oklahoma that includes SSM Health St. Anthony Hospital - Oklahoma City, Bone & Joint Hospital at St. Anthony, St. Anthony South, St. Anthony Hospital – Shawnee, SSM Health Medical Group, five SSM Health St. Anthony Healthplex locations, and six managed rural hospitals.

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>