



## Regional Infusion Center to Open in Polk County for COVID-19 Patients

A Regional Infusion Center to help treat COVID-19 patients in East Texas will open to the public this week in Livingston.

The State of Texas through the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), in partnership with Polk County, CHI St. Luke's Memorial - Livingston and Polk County's Office of Emergency Management, will open the state-supported infusion center on Monday, September 20, as an additional resource for treating COVID-19 patients. The infusion center will include personnel, equipment, supplies and wraparound services for a 5-chair Regional Infusion Center.

*"We believe this monoclonal antibody infusion center will ease the burden on our hospital and ER and the taxing of our emergency medical resources by reducing hospitalizations and deaths. The infusion center in Polk County will also provide an additional resource to surrounding rural counties with limited resources and prevent further deterioration and taxing of rural healthcare systems. Polk County appreciates the State's quick response to our request and the partnership that we have with the Texas Division of Emergency Management and CHI St. Luke's Memorial-Livingston. My thoughts and prayers are with those who have been affected by COVID-19 and those who are battling this disease. I want to say a resounding 'Thank You' to CHI, doctors, nurses, and medical personnel in the County and across the State for what you have done to save lives during this pandemic,"* said Polk County Judge Sydney Murphy.

The Polk County Regional Infusion Center is located at Dunbar Gym at 1103 N. Dunbar Ave., Livingston, TX 77351.

The facility will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to Noon. Medical professionals will be able to administer a monoclonal antibody treatment to approximately 30 patients per day. The infusions are meant for COVID-19 patients who are not yet hospitalized or on oxygen supplements.

At Governor Greg Abbott's direction, TDEM contracted with a private vendor who will provide necessary equipment and staffing resources to ensure the center is fully operational. Polk County is providing facilities for the infusion center and infusion call center.

The treatment is available at no cost to patients. Patients must be confirmed COVID-19 positive and have a referral from a primary care physician. Patients who do not have a primary care physician and are confirmed COVID-19 positive may contact the call center for further information.

This infusion center, equipped with Regeneron's monoclonal antibodies, will treat COVID-19 patients with therapeutic drugs that can prevent their condition from worsening and requiring hospital care. The center also increases bed capacity in hospitals for the most ill patients. The State deployed similar measures back in November 2020 to communities across Texas.

To be eligible for the medication patients MUST:

- \* NOT be hospitalized or require oxygen therapy.
- \* NOT require an increase in oxygen rate due to COVID-19 if using for underlying comorbidity.
- \* BE within 10 days of symptom onset.

Patients can contact the infusion center by calling (866) 480-POLK (7655) or 936-327-7655. Doctors can refer patients to the infusion center by emailing [PolkTXInfusion@gothams.com](mailto:PolkTXInfusion@gothams.com).

The Polk County Regional Infusion Center in Livingston is the 16<sup>th</sup> state-supported center operational in Texas. Texans can visit <https://meds.tdem.texas.gov> or call 1-800-742-5990 to find the nearest infusion center.