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PRESS RELEASE

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New flu clinic opens Monday

Jan. 12, 2018 — JPS is standing up an outpatient flu clinic for people who come to John Peter Smith Hospital and don't require emergency care, intended to relieve crowding and wait times in the Emergency Department and Urgent Care Center.

Beginning Monday, non-emergency flu patients arriving at JPS are encouraged to go to the Family Health Center, on the fourth floor of the outpatient building at 1500 S. Main St. Flu clinic hours will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week.

Most people with the flu will recover at home without medical attention. Those who feel they need it are urged to start with their primary care provider or clinic. Going to the hospital for a non-emergency is likely to mean a long wait, as patients in life-threatening condition are seen first.

Nearly 400 people sought care in the Emergency Department on Monday, with another 258 seen in Urgent Care. The E.R. typically averages around 330 patients a day, Urgent Care between 200 and 220.

The flu clinic at the hospital is intended to meet the needs of people who don't have a primary care provider and are not current patients of a JPS Medical Home Clinic in Tarrant County. All patients are accepted, however.

The number of positive flu tests at John Peter Smith Hospital continued to climb on Friday, bringing January's total to 295. December's total was 408.

Flu shots remain available at JPS Medical Home clinics. For those without insurance or who will be paying out-of-pocket, the cost is \$25. Walk-in shot clinics are 3 to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays. A list of clinic locations is attached.