



NEWS RELEASE

Date: September 18, 2008
Subject: HIV Information

Contact: Rosio Torres
(713) 881-3090 JIC#

IMPORTANT HIV INFORMATION

From: The Office of Support, Ryan White Planning Council. 713 572-3724
(updated 4:25 p.m., Wednesday, September 17, 2008)

AGENCY INFO:

AIDS Foundation Houston is open but has no electricity. Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The Stone Soup food pantry is open and the Housing program is staffed.

Bering Omega Community Services:

Adult Day Care Center: will be open starting on Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008.

Bering Dental Clinic: Closed due to no electricity or phone service. Those with dental emergencies need to call 713-341-3790. If clients cannot get through, please call the following alternative number: 713-781-3331. Staff from the Dental Clinic is currently contacting patients to schedule appointments at satellite clinics according to the most severe need.

Omega House: is open now.

The staff at Bering appreciates everyone's cooperation and patience.

HCHD Northwest Health Center & Thomas Street Health Center: Thomas Street has moved their HIV medications to LBJ Hospital. Thomas Street and Northwest Health Center patients can pick up their HIV medications at LBJ pharmacy located at 5656 Kelley Street, Houston 77026.

--more--

Page 2

Houston Area Community Services (HACS) main location on Kirby is open but the elevators are still not operational. Call 713-526-0555 prior to going to this location.

Joseph Hines Clinic (HACS) will resume on Monday. Currently the power is on but intermittent and they are experiencing a staffing shortage so call first. For clinic or other information please call Ernesto Macias at 281-802-7119 or Nelson Gonzalez at 832-435-7121.

Legacy Community Health Services (LCHS) is closed due to power outages at their sites. LCHS patients needing medications may access meds via the Walgreen's on Montrose (3317 Montrose Blvd @ Lovett Blvd) by first calling the LCHS main number 713-830-3000.

A mobile unit will be on the clinic parking lot (215 Westheimer, 77006) Wednesday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. providing free primary health care services to anyone who needs a doctor.

Montrose Counseling Center reopened at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, September 16, 2008. Please note that the elevators are still not operational. If you are in a crisis and need to speak with a counselor or case manager, please call 713-529-0037 and ask to speak with the person on-call.

St. Hope Foundation: The main office (6200 Savoy) remains closed due to no power in the building. **Please direct all calls to the Bellaire Clinic at 713-839-7111.** As for the Conroe Clinic, we have been informed the power will be out for an estimated 1-2 weeks, and consequently, the mobile clinic will be set up to cover the rural clients. This week the mobile clinic will be available for Conroe on Friday, September 19th, 9am to 5pm. Next week the Conroe Clinic will resume its normal schedule. The Stafford Clinic (281-277-8571) is open per its regular schedule.

The Transportation Program will be operating out of the Bellaire Clinic. To contact SHF Transportation Services please call 713-839-7111.

WATER:

City of Bellaire has lifted its boil water notice as of September 16, 2008.

City of Houston & Other Surrounding Cities: The boil water notice has been lifted as of September 17, 2008.

City of Humble reported the water is safe to use and drink.

--more--

THMP/ADAP Clients

Emergency HIV prescription information for hurricane evacuees:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has activated a special Emergency Prescription Assistance Program (EPAP), available to evacuees in these Texas counties: Aransas, Bexar, Brazoria, Brooks, Calhoun, Cameron, Chambers, Cherokee, Collin, Comal, Dallas, Denton, El Paso, Ellis, Fort Bend, Galveston, Hardin, Harris, Hidalgo, Hunt, Jackson, Jefferson, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Kaufman, Liberty, Lubbock, Matagorda, Navarro, Nueces, Orange, Refugio, San Patricio, Smith, Van Zandt, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Wharton, Willacy and Wood.

The EPAP will provide a one-time 30-day supply of medications to treat acute conditions and replace maintenance prescription drugs or medical equipment lost as a direct result of Hurricane Ike. This special assistance is currently scheduled to be available between Sept. 12, 2008 and Sept. 22, 2008.

If you live in Texas, are already enrolled in the Texas HIV Medication Program (THMP), and have to leave your home due to an impending hurricane or subsequent flooding and storm damages, please call the program directly at either 512-533-3000 or 800-255-1090 to request a temporary pharmacy transfer. We'll be able to set you up at an alternate pharmacy location in Texas to pick up your HIV meds while you're displaced. If at all possible, please take your current supply of medications with you before you leave your home, so that you may continue to use that supply. The new pharmacy you're assigned to will need as much information as possible from you regarding prescriptions in order to supply additional drugs to you, so the labels on your current prescription bottles and any other details regarding your physician will be a tremendous help to them. Remember, if you don't have any additional refills available on the prescription you're currently using, the pharmacy can't fill your request unless they can reach your doctor's office and obtain authorization to do so.

If you're a Texas State Pharmacy Assistance Program (SPAP) enrollee using your Medicare Part D plan to obtain your HIV medications, please note that you may continue to fill your prescriptions from any participating pharmacy in the statewide SPAP network. (For example, any Albertsons, CVS, Kroger, Randalls, Target, Tom Thumb or Walgreens pharmacy in Texas can process the SPAP prescriptions.) A complete list of SPAP pharmacies is available at www.publichealthrx.com/pharm_tx_spap.html.

If you're currently enrolled in an ADAP program in your home state and have been evacuated to Texas from a neighboring state, there's a special Emergency Relief Application you can complete and fax into the THMP offices at 512-371-4670 along with proof of identity (such as a copy of your state ID or driver's license) and a copy of your state ADAP ID card if available. Our staff will contact you at the phone number you provide and assign you to a Texas pharmacy location in order to pick up an initial 30-day supply of HIV medications while you're temporarily in Texas awaiting the okay to return to your home state. The application you'll need to complete can be downloaded at: www.dshs.state.tx.us/hivstd/meds/PDF/URGENT.pdf.

--more--

Anyone needing access to fax machines or local support services is encouraged to seek out assistance from local service providers. A listing of such organizations can be found on the Texas HIV/STD Service Directory page: www.dshs.state.tx.us/hivstd/services/service.shtm.

PETS:

The **Disaster Animal Management Task Force** would like to remind citizens that there will be many lost and displaced pets after Hurricane Ike. While human nature makes us want to help animals in need, people should be careful when dealing with lost, frightened and potentially contaminated pets. Citizens are encouraged to call their local animal control agency to report lost or aggressive animals. Animal Control Officers will be back out on the streets searching for lost pets as soon as it's safe. Citizens should leave animal rescue to people trained in handling frightened or aggressive animals.

Harris County Animal Control: 281-999-3191

City of Houston Bureau of Animal Regulation & Control (BARC): 713-238-9600

The **Houston SPCA** has launched the Animal Rescue line to report lost or found animals and to report animal related information. The Animal Rescue line will be open 10:00 am to 6:00 pm: 713-861-0161.

The Houston SPCA will also be accepting injured wildlife at the shelter (900 Portway Drive) through their partnership with Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education.

###