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## PRESS RELEASE

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# JPS Declares Code Yellow for the Second Time in a Month

**On pace to serve an all-time high number of patients during month of May**

As record numbers of patients flood the John Peter Smith Hospital Emergency Department, JPS Health Network leaders have, for the second time in a month, declared a Code Yellow emergency situation.

“We are on pace to see 10,750 patients this month,” said Jesse DeWaard, Executive Director of Emergency Management Services at JPS. “This would be the most ever. Our biggest number of visits in one day stands at 427. In addition, our Psychiatric Emergency Center is seeing record numbers.”

The JPS Emergency Department has 56 patient care rooms. Typically, each day 80-100 people are admitted to the hospital and 65 Behavioral Health patients are seen by Emergency Department personnel, according to DeWaard.

The National Emergency Department Overcrowding Scale (NEDOCS) uses a formula including factors such as the number of admissions, hospital beds available, boarding times and wait times to determine how stressed hospital resources are. A score of 0-50 is considered to be “normal,” 51-100 is “busy,” 101-140 is “overcrowded,” 141-180 is “severe” and above 180 is “disaster.”

The JPS Emergency Department’s score Tuesday afternoon was 298. By comparison, none of the other hospitals in the Fort Worth area currently has a NEDOCS score higher than 80.

“That’s squarely in disaster mode, and things are going to get worse,” said Lance Lynch, Director of Emergency Management at JPS. “Holidays are usually a lighter time in the hospital, it’s the days immediately after the holiday when we see the number of people who come in start to increase. So, as we move past Memorial Day weekend, we’re likely to see our numbers rise even more.”



Lynch said one of the reasons resources are being overwhelmed is because a high percentage of the patients who have come into the hospital have cases that require an inpatient stay as opposed to being treated and released.

“About 30 percent of them are being admitted,” Lynch said. “These are not people that we can quickly treat and turn around. They’re more serious cases.”

When a Code Yellow is called, JPS leaders meet to determine how to mobilize staff, resources and support in order to most efficiently make sure every patient gets the care they need. Team members from other areas of the health network are sent to the Emergency Department to help out and people who are off duty are asked to come in to work extra shifts to make sure patients are properly cared for.

JPS leaders previously declared a Code Yellow on April 30. That event lasted about two days before, with the help of community partners and dedicated team members who put in extra hours to pitch in, circumstances returned to normal.

(End)