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## PRESS RELEASE

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# JPS Declares Code Yellow

***“There are sick patients in Tarrant County and right now we are overwhelmed with them.”***

***- Jesse DeWaard, Executive Director of Emergency Services at JPS***

JPS Health Network has declared a Code Yellow situation because of a higher than usual demand for Emergency Department services.

According to Executive Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer Wanda Peebles, JPS has experienced an ED patient volume about 25 percent higher than typical since Saturday. She said there is no single health concern that has caused the sudden increase in demand, although there is a higher than usual requirement for Behavioral Health care. No end to the increased demand is in sight, she said.

“Normally, we average about 320 patients a day in the Emergency Department,” Peebles said. “We had one day in the last week during which we saw 423 patients.”

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 Jesse DeWaard, Executive Director of Emergency Services at JPS. To help add much-needed staff, the referral bonus paid to employees who successfully recruit a new Emergency Department RN has temporarily been increased from \$6,000 to \$10,000.

To further help alleviate the stress on the Emergency Department, Peebles said people who are dealing with a minor illness should consider instead visiting their primary care physician, an urgent care center or a JPS clinic for a walk-in appointment. That will not only free up space and personnel in ED, it will reduce their wait time for assistance.



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“We never say no to anything that comes to our doors,” DeWaard said. “There are sick patients in Tarrant County and right now we are overwhelmed with them. We are seeing patients that have a lot of health problems and many of them need to be hospitalized.”

Additionally, to address the high demand for services, JPS has asked:

- Team members from other departments to help the ED in any way possible including assisting in rounding up beds and wheelchairs
- Patient sitters to work extra shifts
- Team members who usually perform other roles are to be trained to be used as patient sitters until the need for additional help has subsided

Experienced registered nurses and candidates for other high-demand positions including patient sitters can call JPS Human Resources at (817) 702-7389.

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