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PRESS RELEASE

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Flu prescriptions quadruple Special shipment keeps Tamiflu in stock

Jan. 3, 2018 — Prescriptions for the flu medication Tamiflu quadrupled in December, consistent with a spike in flu cases across North Texas and much of the state. JPS Health Network pharmacies filled 156 prescriptions for Tamiflu in the final week of December, up from 34 the first week of the month.

Demand rose so quickly, “I had our wholesaler rush some on an airplane over the weekend” to ensure the medication would be available for everyone who needed it, said Pharmacy Director Nicole Shoquist, who oversees pharmacy services at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth and JPS Health Network clinics across Tarrant County. If taken within 48 hours of symptom onset, Tamiflu can shorten the duration of the flu, helping people get better faster.

JPS is urging everyone to be vaccinated against the flu. Together with preventive measures such as frequent hand-washing, the flu shot provides the best protection. Although “flu” is often mistakenly used to describe everything from a cold to an upset stomach, the real thing is a serious illness with potentially life-threatening complications such as pneumonia.

Even though the flu season is already underway, it’s not too late to be vaccinated. The vaccine can take several weeks to provide protection, but flu season in Texas can last well into spring.

Flu shots are available at all JPS Medical Homes in Tarrant County during scheduled appointments or during designated walk-in hours. For those without insurance or who will be paying out-of-pocket, the cost is \$25.

A list of clinics providing flu shots is attached. A directory of all JPS locations is on the network’s web site at www.jpshealthnet.org/about_jps/jps_locations.