



Harris County Hospital District

Media Release

For Immediate Release

February 12, 2004

Contact: John F. Martinez

713-566-6486 or 713-566-6430

HCHD's Aldine Health Center Expands Hours March 1

Aldine is first of six centers to expand service hours by September

The Harris County Hospital District's Aldine Health Center, located at 4755 Aldine Mail Route in Northeast Houston, will expand its services to six days a week starting March 1.

The expansion adds Monday, 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m., to the center's traditional Tuesday to Saturday service week. Last year, staff at the center saw nearly 30,000 patient visits including 23,185 adult and 2,126 pediatric visits.

From 2002 to 2003, staff saw a 16 percent increase in patient visits, said Ricci Sanchez, Aldine director.

"We want to be more responsive to the community's needs," Sanchez said. "By having our doors open more days of the week, we can accommodate more patients when they need us."

The hospital district plans to extend evening hours or days at five other health centers (Gulfgate, Martin Luther King, Northwest, Settegast and Strawberry) across the county in September.

The \$4.5 million service expansion at the six facilities is expected to accommodate nearly 88,000 new patient visits and about 60,000 new physician/patient visits.

Today HCHD has one facility, People's Health Center in Southwest Houston, operating six days a week.

The Harris County Hospital District is the fourth largest public metropolitan healthcare system in the U.S. HCHD comprises three hospitals – Ben Taub General Hospital, Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital and Quentin Mease Community Hospital – 11 neighborhood health centers, 13 satellite clinics at area homeless shelters, an HIV/AIDS clinic, a dental center, five school-based clinics and five mobile health units.