



## **Media Release**

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Contact: Tina Foster

713-566-6430 or 713-566-6931

## **Holiday Safety Request**

To avoid overcrowding of the county's busiest emergency centers at Ben Taub and Lyndon B. Johnson general hospitals, Harris County Hospital District officials urge residents to be safe this holiday weekend. Residents unsure of whether they need emergency center help are asked to call Ask Your Nurse at 713-633-CALL (2255).

Ask Your Nurse is the community's free 24-hour-a-day healthcare hotline. Nurses speaking English and Spanish are available to answer healthcare questions and help residents determine whether they need emergency care.

"We urge all residents to exercise caution this holiday weekend," said Dr. Margo Hilliard, Administrator of Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital. "We also ask that patients use hospital emergency centers for only true emergencies. For all other medical needs, they should consult their primary care doctor or call the free telephone hotline Ask Your Nurse."

LBJ Hospital is a Level 3 Trauma Center and sees about 80,000 emergency patients a year. Ben Taub Hospital is the city's busiest Level 1 Trauma Center, each year seeing nearly 3,000 trauma patients and about 100,000 emergency patients.

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

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