



Harris County Hospital District

Media Release

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Congressional Leaders Visit Evacuees at the Astrodome

HCHD's Astrodome Clinic is stop for visitors

HOUSTON-Sept. 9, 2005 – Today, a Houston Congressional Delegation of U.S. Rep. Gene Green, U.S. Rep. Shelia Jackson Lee and U.S. Rep. Al Green hosted U.S. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi from California at the Astrodome for a first-hand account from organizers and evacuees about the massive relief effort in Harris County.

Leaders praised the ongoing work of local and state officials for responding with compassion and dedication to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Among the stops for the Congressional leaders was the Astrodome Health Clinic, a 100,000-square-foot operation headed by the Harris County Hospital District.

Since the arrival of 25,000 – 30,000 evacuees to the Astrodome on Aug. 31, the clinic has treated more than 8,400 evacuees for a variety of ailments and medical conditions.

Following a conversation between Gov. Rick Perry and County Judge Robert Eckels in the early morning hours of Aug. 31, the Harris County Hospital District joined several organizations in planning for the relief of evacuees. Within 18 hours, HCHD created a fully functional clinic to take care of the medical needs of evacuees.

The Harris County Hospital District's Astrodome Health Clinic is the single largest medical response in this national disaster.

- Initial 20 exam rooms expanded to 70 exam and isolation rooms now.
- Clinic offers full pharmacy, radiology services and other specialty areas for pediatrics, geriatrics, psychiatry and OB/GYN.
- Operations grew from 20,000 square feet to 40,000 square feet and finally 100,000 square feet.
- 24-hour-a-day operation has been scaled back to an 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. operation.
- Full complement of care provide through other HCHD facilities including Ben Taub General Hospital.
- Physician staffing provided by Baylor College of Medicine and the University of Texas Health Science Center – Houston.

The Harris County Hospital District is the fifth largest metropolitan public healthcare system in the nation. Now celebrating its 40th anniversary, the Hospital District comprises three hospitals (Ben Taub General Hospital, Lyndon B. Johnson General Hospital and Quentin Mease Community Hospital) 12 community health centers, 13 satellite homeless clinics, a specialty dental center, six school-based clinics and four mobile health units.

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