



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- September 17, 2021

## **Texas Department of State Health Services Announces Distribution Changes to State-Operated Regional Infusion Center**

**NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS** -- Nacogdoches officials received yesterday evening the following announcement from the Texas Department of State Health Services:

*“Due to the high demand and short supply of therapeutics across the nation, federal US HHS announced a transition in how therapeutics are distributed throughout the country. Previously, sites could directly order product from the distributor. Late September 13, US HHS notified Texas that therapeutics will now be distributed through the states. Pending orders with AmerisourceBergen are being closed out.*

*HHS also notified DSHS that the national supply has considerably decreased and states should expect lower amounts of therapeutics available for shipment in the coming weeks. The federal government is working to acquire increased supply given the heavy demand.*

*DSHS has been seeking additional guidance and details from federal entities today and is working to develop a state system for allocations as quickly as possible. DSHS will be allocating both Regeneron and Bamlanivimab and Etesevimab for the state of Texas, and will seek to allocate as proportionally as possible. The amount available to distribute is expected to be disproportionately small compared to the amounts needed.*

*DSHS will follow up as quickly as possible to provide information on the new process. The State of Texas Assistance Request (STAR) process should NOT be used for requesting therapeutics. STARs submitted for therapeutics will be marked not filled.”*

The new federal distribution system may cause delays in treatment; however the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), operators of the Regional Infusion Center in Nacogdoches, assures local officials that every effort is being made to maintain sufficient supply of the therapeutic drugs to continue services.