

1101 Medical Center Boulevard  
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September 2, 2008

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**For Immediate Release:**

Marrero, LA – “As was the case with Hurricane Katrina, West Jefferson Medical Center is open and has never closed at any time during this event,” Nancy R. Cassagne, West Jefferson Medical Center Chief Executive Officer, said. “The Medical Center appreciates the support of local, state and federal officials, our Medical Staff and employees during this disaster.”

Our Employee Activation Team remains on duty at this time. Recovery Team is instructed to continue to watch for updates. Recovery Team members should return to the community in accordance with procedures for Tier 1 placard holders. They should NOT report to the hospital until officially requested to do so, but should rather use the established communication procedures including the inclement weather hotline, WJ net and West Jefferson Medical Center Bulletins for duty instructions as they become available.

Emergency services are available and the WJMC Emergency Department continues to be fully operational for emergency care. Inpatient services are also available.

The hospital does not anticipate the performing elective surgery or procedures, including the West Jefferson Surgery Center, for the next couple of days. Patients should contact the physician coordinating their surgical care for further instructions and rescheduling.

While the hospital is operational, the Physician Center medical office buildings are closed due to lack of power. It will reopen after power is restored.

In accordance with state and federal government patient evacuation program, West Jefferson Medical Center on Sunday, August 31, relocated 89 patients to hospitals outside of the affected area prior to the storm. This was a difficult but necessary decision for the safety of our patients and was made in anticipation of possible flooding.

Our number one priority is and will continue to be the safety of our patients. We have been in constant communications with state officials regarding the location and status of our patients. We appreciate the support of our patients and loved ones during the evacuation. We are working to return those patients to our community as soon as possible. Family members of those patients may call West Jefferson Medical Center at (504) 349-6596 for assistance. In addition, families may also access available information at the Louisiana Hospital Association at [www.lhaonline.org](http://www.lhaonline.org)