



**Governor's Office of  
Homeland Security &  
Emergency Preparedness**

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**JOINT INFORMATION CENTER**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 3, 2012

**DHH Continues Phasing Down Medical Special Needs Shelter  
Operations as Residents Return to their Communities**

Baton Rouge, La. – The Department of Health and Hospitals has discharged patients from its medical special needs shelters (MSNS) in Baton Rouge and Hammond as it helps residents return closer to their communities. MSNS operations continue in New Orleans.

This is in addition to the Bossier and Alexandria shelters that stopped operating yesterday, Sept. 2.

The New Orleans Convention Center is currently caring for 47 patients and will remain open until further notice.

Medical special needs shelters provide refuge to individuals who may not be eligible for a general shelter because of their medical needs but do not require hospitalization. The shelters are a last resort, temporary living arrangement, providing care until the emergency is over and the parish of residence is safe.

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