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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **ELI LILLY ANNOUNCES EXCITING COVID-19 ANTIBODY STUDY RESULTS NOLA Research Works Plays Important Role in Race for Cure, Shifts Focus to At Risk Population**

NEW ORLEANS, LA, September 18 --- In an exciting announcement of interim phase 2 study results Wednesday, pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly's antibody medicine is showing a 72-percent risk reduction of hospitalization in patients with mild to moderate symptoms of COVID-19. As national news is all abuzz in reporting Lilly's findings, NOLA Research Works, an independent, New Orleans-based clinical trials research organization, remains busy recruiting, enrolling, monitoring, and managing patients who have volunteered to participate.

Just 6 weeks after being tapped by Lilly, NOLA Research Works has enrolled 25 patient volunteers into the study. "That's no small feat, especially given the tedious recruitment process and dedicated care patients receive during study participation," said the study's Principal Investigator, Dr. Corey Hebert. "After vetting several hundred people by phone, 398 patients came to the clinic for a rapid test, of which 41 tested positive for COVID-19 and 25 actually enrolled in the study," Hebert concluded.

"The New Orleans community has really stepped-up and is doing its part to help find a cure for the virus," said NOLA Research Works CEO, Kaye Doiron. Phase 2 of Eli Lilly's antibody study began with patients who were COVID-19 positive and had mild to moderate symptoms of the disease. Having proven efficacy in an otherwise healthy population, Lilly has shifted the focus of its study population to COVID-19 patients who are more vulnerable and at higher risk of hospitalization. "Now, we're actively recruiting patients who are severely overweight, those with a history of stroke or heart disease, and the 65+ population," Doiron continued. "As we approach the fall flu season, our focus is on vulnerable community members. We must keep their illness from progressing which in turn will help keep our hospitals from being overwhelmed over the next few months. Now more than ever, we need our community to get involved!" Doiron concluded.



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*Lilly COVID-19 Study Interim Results Announcement*

Patients enrolled in the BLAZE-1 COVID-19 Study are provided personalized, comprehensive care that includes daily health monitoring and intensive labs to measure health and response to treatment. Though house-calls are offered, all of Research Works' 25 enrolled patients have opted in to in-person care at their clinic on South White Street in Mid-City, which Doiron attributes to the warm, familiar environment that NOLA Research Works offers.

Eligible patient volunteers who complete the study will be reimbursed a total of \$850 for their commitment and contribution. Payments made to volunteers is standard practice in clinical trials studies with the pre-established amounts set forth by the contracting pharmaceutical company and ethics review boards, in this case Eli Lilly and WIRB. Symptomatic volunteers interested in participating in the study will be pre-screened for eligibility, including a COVID-19 rapid test nasal swab prior to being enrolled.

Eligibility criteria fall into the following 3 categories:

CATEGORY 1: 18 years of age or older, severely overweight (34BMI or Higher), symptoms of COVID-19, and a meaningful interest in participating in our study

CATEGORY 2: 55 years of age or older, history of stroke or heart disease, symptoms of COVID-19, and a meaningful interest in participating in our study

CATEGORY 3: 65 years of age or older, symptoms of COVID-19, and a meaningful interest in participating in our study

For more information or to register and book an appointment to be pre-screened, go to [COVIDstudyNOLA.com](http://COVIDstudyNOLA.com) or call their dedicated COVID-19 clinical trial hotline at 504-408-1126.

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