

## UMC Opens Antibody Testing To All Associates

University Medical Center of El Paso this past week provided all Associates the opportunity to register and be tested for antibodies that are correlated with COVID-19. As the world has seen since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of testing is of the utmost priority.



Time slots for the antibody testing were completely filled for the first week with over a hundred Associates being tested in the first day. “The ability to know who had the virus and who doesn't provides critical information for our hospital and the region of El Paso,” Miguel Rivera, from Infection Control says.

### *So What Does Antibody Testing Mean?*

An antibody test can reveal whether a person might have developed immunity to COVID-19. Researchers haven't determined yet whether a person who has had and recovered from COVID-19 is protected from getting it again but from prior and preliminary studies, this shows like it might be the case. “It is important to see whether our healthcare workers have developed immunity,” added Rivera. “Although our Associates would still be required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE), they would be at lower risk for getting re-infected, compared to those who do not have this immunity.”

UMC Associates can register for the antibody test through the hospitals intranet page under the “HR Training & Development Classes”

## UMC's OR Staff Participates in National Time-Out Day

UMC's Operating Room staff participated in the 2020 National Time-Out Day which landed on June 10<sup>th</sup> this year. National Time-Out Day is an event supporting nurses' ability to advocate for safe surgical practices in the operating room. Time-outs have been a recommended practice in the U.S. since the Joint Commision launched the universal protocol in 2004.

Each year, there is a different theme that is highlighted or prioritized for the time-out day. As no surprise, this years main focus was patient safety during the COVID-19 pandemic and proper cleanliness for elective surgeries. "A 'time -out' is utilized by a surgical team prior to the start of a procedure to help prevent wrong-site, wrong-side, wrong-procedure or wrong-person surgery," said Viola Cedillo, Assistant Administrator for Invasive Services. "Our staff is the best in the region and our hospital maintains a safe environment for all visiting patients during this pandemic. As UMC works towards reopening elective surgeries to full capacity, the OR team will be prepared to provide the best experience for all patients."



UMC's OR Staff Poses After a Completed Time-Out Event

## 'PIT Crew' Works Fast, Efficient to ready 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

In a showcase of teamwork, dedication, and efficiency, UMC Associates Carla Escobar Director Neuro ICU and SMU, Dora Sherwood ANM Neuro ICU and SMU, Alexa Timbrook Director CVICU, Elida De Leon ANM ICU, and Chris Morales Director ICU, earned the nickname "UMC's Pit Crew." In the span of 5 hours, the team was able to transform an area on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Endoscopy Unit to a prepared and efficient COVID-19 patient area.

UMC teams needed to work quickly to get the area ready at a time when it was needed most. This is yet another example of how our UMC Associates focus on the mission of healthcare and responding to the needs of our El Paso community.



(From Left to Right) Carla Escobar Director Neuro ICU and SMU, Dora Sherwood ANM Neuro ICU and SMU, Alexa Timbrook Director CVICU, Elida De Leon ANM ICU, and Chris Morales Director ICU

# UMC West Clinic's Rehab Team Helps Violence Victims



This past week, members of the UMC West Clinic Rehab team gathered donations as a way to help El Paso's Center Against Family Violence. The donations include clothes for adults and children, food, toys, and other household items.

The team saw this as an opportunity to help those in need during the time of a pandemic in which family violence and issues still occur. "Our team is always thinking of how we can help our community outside of the care they receive from our department," said Frank Garcia, West Rehab

## Overall Donations Collected!

Supervisor. "The amount of donations we received demonstrates how involved our team is," added Elsa Santillano, Occupational Therapist. Way to go UMC West Rehab for representing our hospital in such a positive way!

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## Participate In This Month's Lunch & Learn Webinar!

Using the meeting ID and password you may login at [zoom.us](https://zoom.us)

**Understanding and Coping with Grief**

**Presenter: Luis Chavarria, Emergence Health Network**

**Thursday, June 18 at 8 p.m.**

Please log in with the following information:  
**Meeting ID: 965 964 7478**  
**Password: MHLL002**

**Participation in webinar qualifies for one lunch and learn sticker for the Wellness Challenge!**

### About The Pulse:

*The Pulse newsletter is a product of the UMC Public Affairs office and features news briefs and updates from around our campus. It is distributed to our El Paso community. If you have an item that you would like to have considered for The Pulse, email it to [Ryan Mielke, UMC Director of Public Affairs.](mailto:Ryan.Mielke@umc-el-paso.org)*