

UMC Receives Certificate Of Recognition From TexasAIM



University Medical Center received an official Certificate of Recognition from the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for the hospital’s participation in the Texas Alliance for Innovation of Maternal Health (TexasAIM). UMC joined the TexasAIM program as a commitment with other hospitals across Texas and the nation to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity.

“Our Maternity and Labor and Delivery teams are constantly looking at ways to improve the care we provide to expectant mothers and families” said Amy Daher, Chief Nursing Officer for UMC. “This recognition is a reflection of the hardwork, dedication, and countless hours our Associates in these departments make to the community they serve.”

AIM works through state and community-based teams to align national, state, and hospital-level quality improvement efforts to improve overall maternal health outcomes. Any hospital in a participating AIM state may

join the growing and engaged AIM community of multidisciplinary healthcare providers, public health professionals, and cross-sector stakeholders who are committed to improving maternal outcomes in the U.S.

What You Need To Know About COVID-19 Vaccines

As we continue to innovate and pivot to effectively carry out our mission, and care for our patients and each other during this horrible pandemic, there is hope for better times ahead as two vaccines are currently under review. Please know that no one at University Medical Center of El Paso is required to take the COVID-19 vaccination. It is your personal choice. We will continue to share information as it becomes available so that you can make an educated decision.

When will the vaccine be available? There are two vaccines currently seeking an Emergency Use Authorization from the FDA, Pfizer and Moderna. The FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research's Vaccines and Related Biological Advisory Committee will meet to discuss the Pfizer vaccine on Dec. 10 and the Moderna vaccine on Dec. 17. The committee will make a determination shortly thereafter based upon the provided data. Instead of a "substantial evidence" standard that is typically required for approval, in an emergency use authorization, a treatment can be used if the benefits outweigh the risks.



If the emergency use authorization is approved by the FDA, we expect to receive the vaccine within two to three days of FDA approval. We plan to make the vaccine available to staff shortly thereafter. We are very cognizant of our responsibility to vaccinate and protect as many of our employees as possible as soon as possible.

As we wait to learn whether the Pfizer and/or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines will be granted emergency use authorization, University Medical Center of El Paso leadership is developing plans for distribution to assure that all staff choosing to get vaccinated can be vaccinated from COVID-19. **Vaccines** don't save lives – **vaccinations** do.

What is emergency use authorization? Emergency Use Authorization allows treatments or vaccines to be given to some people while clinical trials and studies continue. They have been used in the past for remdesivir, Zika virus treatments, Ebola virus treatments, and H1N1 vaccinations.

The FDA is requiring all vaccine makers who request emergency use authorization to submit two months of follow-up data from half of the people enrolled in the clinical trials. Full approval of any

vaccine will require up to six months of safety follow-up and inspections of manufacturing sites. The earliest any vaccine could receive full FDA approval would be summer 2021.

Emergency Use Authorization of one or more COVID-19 vaccines is only the first step in slowing the virus. People need to take it for it to work.

What should I know about these vaccines? Both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines use Messenger RNA technology. That is one reason why they were able to develop these vaccines so quickly. It will be the first time mRNA is being used in a vaccine. Vaccines work by stimulating our immune system. Most vaccines do this by introducing a killed or weakened version of the disease organism.

The mRNA vaccines trigger the immune system by promoting the manufacture of one part of the COVID-19 virus, the spike protein. To do this, the mRNA is packaged in a fatty capsule that allows it to enter cells. A section of genetic code for the COVID-19 spike protein is included in mRNA. This prompts our cells to make the protein that creates an immune response, which can protect the individual against a real infection. Essentially, using an mRNA vaccine, we trick our own cells into developing an immune response to the COVID-19 spike protein.

Has this vaccine been tested? Yes. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are completing phase 3 clinical trials, which involves double-blind studies in humans. Pfizer and Moderna have already applied for emergency use authorization from the FDA. We anticipate that more information on study outcomes will be released following the authorization process and we will share those links with you as soon as information is posted. In the meantime, you can learn more about these studies on ClinicalTrials.gov:

- Pfizer study: [Search of: vaccine pfizer | Covid19 - List Results - ClinicalTrials.gov](#)
- Moderna: [Search of: vaccine moderna | covid19 - List Results - ClinicalTrials.gov](#)

What are the possible side effects? Side effects reported include soreness at the injection site, fever, chills, headache or muscle and joint pain. This is similar to reactions some people have to other vaccines, including influenza, shingles and the DPT.

When will I be offered the vaccine? As you have likely heard, the CDC recommends that the vaccine be offered first to frontline health care workers. This is because frontline health care workers are critical to the health of our communities yet have one of the highest risks of contracting COVID-19. Since the beginning of the pandemic 1,077 health care workers have died in the United States alone.

We have identified those University Medical Center of El Paso staff members who will be among the first offered the opportunity to take the vaccine based on their job roles. If you are among this group, you will receive an email early next week asking you to confirm your interest in taking the vaccine now. Once we vaccinate the Tier 1 group, we will reach out to the second group and start that process for them. All remaining staff will have the opportunity to take the vaccine as soon as possible. The

number of doses that we receive will drive the speed at which we can expand vaccination efforts to all staff and patients.

UMC Foundation Receives \$152,000 For Respiratory Equipment

University Medical Center Foundation of El Paso (UMCF) today announced \$150,000 in donations from multiple foundations to help with the emergency purchase of respiratory care equipment for patients fighting COVID-19.

The El Paso community has seen record high numbers of positive COVID-19 cases in recent weeks. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced UMC to reassess the already complicated patient discharge process. It is even more taxing now with the coronavirus crisis because there are multiple obstacles within and outside the hospital setting.

Portable concentrators are a cost-effective option that permits physicians to discharge eligible patients sooner, therefore, shortening the hospital length of stay (LOS). UMC is placing renewed emphasis on early discharges by identifying ready-to-go patients the day before using patient-tracking technology.



Portable Respirator Concentrator

“Throughout this pandemic, we’ve sought ways to bring more efficiency and care to our patients,” said Jacob Cintron, UMC President & CEO. “These donations to our foundation are providing a critical link that expedites our discharge process while allowing patients to complete their recovery in the comfort of their home. This is yet another example of community organizations stepping up to help people, especially in times of crisis. My thanks go to all of the organizations who made this donation possible, for the benefit of the people of our city.”

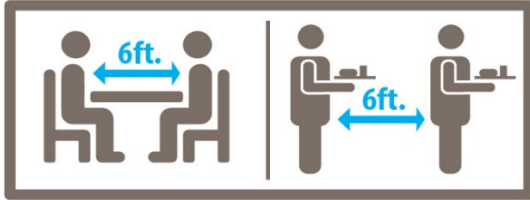
One major hindrance gripping the discharge process at UMC has been the increased need for home oxygen concentrators for patients requiring low-flow oxygen at discharge. With the rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus in El Paso, Texas, the need for essential medical equipment is also increasing.

With the help of the following foundations, UMCF will gift oxygen concentrators and other emergency respiratory equipment to University Medical Center of El Paso to help with bed capacity and shortening LOS.

- Anonymous Funder: \$50,000
- Bank of America Foundation: \$40,000
- Wells Fargo Foundation: \$20,000
- Paso del Norte Community Foundation: \$20,000
- GECU Foundation: \$20,000
- Sam’s Club of El Paso: \$2,000

“Our community is El Paso Strong, and today, more than ever, it is obvious of the generosity of our community to provide assistance when our community needs it the most,” said Estela Casas, Executive Director of the University Medical Center Foundation of El Paso. “The impact of these funds will not only be felt by the patients who will receive the equipment but by the hospital staff to be more prepared for other admissions.”

REMINDER TO ALL:



When dining or standing in line at either the UMC Cafeteria or Bistro, you must observe all social distancing requirements.

Do not sit close together.

Do not move furniture to accommodate each other.

Your actions affect the actions of others.

These requirements apply to breakroom dining as well.

Please set the example by doing what's right for everyone.



Attention: ALL ASSOCIATES



WHEN ARRIVING AT THE HOSPITAL:

Your mask must be worn upon exit of your vehicle.

WHEN LEAVING THE HOSPITAL:

Your mask must be worn upon exit of the hospital until you enter your vehicle.

Thank you for your cooperation.

