

As Flu Season Arrives, UMC Prepared El Paso For With Special Mass Drive-Through Flu Vaccinations

As the cases of flu begin to occur, University Medical Center of El Paso prepared the county by conducting a special "drive through" flu vaccination event for all, at the El Paso County Coliseum. El Pasoans remained in their cars and were safely vaccinated for this year's flu season.

"It is so important to come out and get vaccinated especially during the midst of this pandemic" said Claudia Mercado, Manager of Quality Resources, "patients were able to feel safe while ensuring proper social distancing by staying in the comfort of their cars."

It was estimated that over 1,000 vaccines were given out to El Pasoans through the flu-drive.



Sarai Valenzuela, RN asks a patient a few questions before giving his flu shot

EndoFLIP Technology Completes The Circle Of Treatment In Gastroenterology And Endoscopy Expertise at UMC

University Medical Center expands its full-service capability once again thanks to a grant awarded by the National Institute of Health (NIH) to Dr. Richard W. McCallum, Medical Director of the Diagnostic Center for GI Motility and Functional Bowel Disorders. The NIH grant has allowed Dr. McCallum to purchase technology known as EndoFLIP (endolumenal functional lumen imaging probe) which offers



Dr. McCallum and his team

an easier procedure to assess the function of a patient's esophagus, diagnose the condition and start the patient on an ideal treatment plan.

"Up until now we haven't had a way of documenting the rigidity of a sphincter to let the food through," said Dr. McCallum, Professor and Founding Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine and Director of the Center for Neurogastroenterology and Director of GI Research at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, El Paso. "We aren't sure how rigid or

resistant it is. We aren't sure how functional it is because we can't see it during a meal or when we swallow. These measurements allow us to predict the functioning capacity."

Dr. Sherif Elhanafi, Assistant Professor and Interventional Advanced Endoscopist for Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, El Paso, is instructing Dr. McCallum and the nurses on the use of EndoFLIP since he trained for it at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Arizona and at the University of Philadelphia. "EndoFLIP reacts to pressure motility and it looks for motility problems that we can solve before endoscopy," said Dr. Elhanafi who has been with UMC for about 14 months. "It gives us more of an immediate answer."

During the EndoFLIP procedure, the patient is sedated and a catheter is placed through the mouth into the esophagus. Fluid is passed through the catheter to inflate a cylinder-shaped balloon that contains specialized sensors. The gastroenterologist is able to see what is going on inside the gastrointestinal tract. It allows for a clearer image and provides detailed measurements and pressures within the esophagus, all of which play an important role in properly diagnosing a patient. It is exactly similar to the experience of undergoing upper endoscopy and only adds 10 to 15 minutes to the total duration of the endoscopic procedure.

"EndoFLIP will change the process around," said Claudia Acuna, Director of Center for Diagnostic and Advanced Endoscopy. "The idea that the patient comes into our Center and can have the EndoFLIP procedure performed through the mouth, helps us to decide exactly what the patient needs. It will give us the specific disease. EndoFLIP at UMC, along with the Motility Center and the Endoscopy Center, complements our GI and Motility Services to complete the whole treatment."

EndoFLIP can help find the cause of difficulty swallowing; for example, in patients with suspected Achalasia, a rare disorder making it difficult for food and liquid to pass into the stomach. It also helps patients who have difficulty swallowing after surgery for gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD). It can also be used to perform a therapeutic dilation without the need for X-rays.

"I want to recognize the excellent work done by Claudia Acuna and her team along with the Diagnostic Center for GI Motility and Functional Bowel Disorders," said Dr. McCallum. "We are a great team and it

allows us to advance this procedure and others in the future to be the leaders in El Paso and to offer patients a full range of therapy without leaving the city.”

“There are so many teaching moments with Dr. McCallum,” said Cecilia Martinez, Nurse Educator and PI Coordinator for the Center for Diagnostic and Advanced Endoscopy. “He is a great instructor and he likes to share what he knows. A lot of us are drawn to him for that. Now we have EndoFLIP and we have the best and most wonderful expert and renowned physician. We are so lucky to have him.”

UMC CARES Ambassadors Graduate From Inaugural Class

UMC had 22 Associates who were part of the inaugural class of our UMC CARES Ambassadors program. These Associates have dedicated the last three months to the CARES from the Heart training and have shown their commitment to high quality care by embodying our C.A.R.E.S. Values and Standards of Performance. These Associates were chosen to be part of an initiative to increase patient satisfaction throughout the hospital.

Jose Amaro - Patient Access

Gabriela Palomino - PFS

Chris Celaya - Safety

Elizabeth Ramirez - NHC Admin

Veronica Almeida - Ultrasound

Fabiola Ramos - Guest Services

Marily Dominguez-Cisneros - Diabetes Management

Marcos Rey - Human Resources

Pedro Esquivel - Food Services

Ivonne Saenz - Environmental Services

Luz Garcia - Scheduler

Vanessa Teran - Rehab

Krystal Garcia - Pharmacy

Cesar Valadez Jr. - Rehab

Eileen Gutierrez - NHC

David Valtierra - Patient Transport

Alison Kennedy - Care Management

Jose Villalpando - IT

Enrique Lopez - Lab

David Wierson - Business Development

Gabriel Ortiz - Pharmacy Administration

Carolyn Williams - Foundation

Nominations are now being accepted for the next UMC Ambassadors class. If you are interested in being an Ambassador or nominating one of your Associates, please contact Monica Armendariz at

MonicaArmendariz@umcelpaso.org or Leslie Lujan at lalujan@umcelpaso.org. Deadline for nominations is Friday, November 13, 2020.

UMC Recognized For Membership In AHA For 50 Years

University Medical Center of El Paso was recognized during the month of October for its membership in the American Hospital Association (AHA). UMC has been a member for 50 years of AHA which is a national organization that represents and serves all types of hospitals, health care networks, and their patients and communities. Nearly 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks, other providers of care and 43,000 individual members form the AHA.



UMC President & CEO Jacob Cintron Receives the AHA Recognition Award

UMC's President & CEO Jacob Cintron received the award from AHA Regional Executive David Pearson and was proud to continue the membership as an AHA Hospital.

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.

Logos: UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER OF EL PASO, El Paso Children's, Texas Tech Physicians, El Paso Health

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.

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**No More Than Four People Per Elevator
SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIRED**

**Máximo De Cuatro Personas En El Elevador
ES OBLIGATORIO MANTENER LA SANA DISTANCIA**

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