



## Senator John Cornyn Praises High Level of Vaccinations

U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) visited University Medical Center of El Paso on Tuesday, Aug. 17, to urge vaccinations, thank frontline healthcare workers during the pandemic, and to address media regarding vaccinations and the COVID-19 pandemic at a brief press conference.

R. Jacob Cintron, President & CEO thanked Senator Cornyn on the federal level for the assistance to UMC during the

COVID-19 pandemic. “I am most proud to say 71 percent of El Pasoans over 12 years are fully vaccinated and those 65 and older total 87 to 90 percent fully vaccinated,” said Cintron.

Cornyn agreed and shared his family ties to El Paso.

“El Paso has been through a lot,” said Senator Cornyn who grew up in El Paso when his father was at Fort Bliss and William Beaumont Army Medical Center. “But El Paso is strong.” The senator thanked the nurses and all of UMC’s frontline workers. “Thank you for everything you have been doing,” he said.

Senator Cornyn repeatedly emphasized his message to El Paso and any area he visited was the importance of being vaccinated. “I appreciate the high level of vaccinations here,” he said. “Congratulations to all El Pasoans who are vaccinated. It is unmatched, I think.”



U.S. Senator John Cornyn visited UMC to urge all El Pasoans to receive their vaccinations.

## Triple-Digit Temps Are Doused with Bahama Bucks Treat



Before the rains of August arrived, El Paso was feeling the heat with 100-plus temperatures. UMC Associates were able to cool off on Bahama Bucks Treat Day in mid-July in the ASU Breezeway. Funded by Denim Fridays Supporters, a campaign under the umbrella of Organizational and Community Engagement, more than 900 UMC and El Paso Children’s Hospital’s Associates enjoyed the sweet, icy treat, while cooling down from the searing Southwestern sun!

“We love to host treat days to be able to highlight and thank our Associates for the great work they do each day,” said Leslie Lujan, Director of Organizational and Community Engagement.

## School Supply Kits Provided to UMC Associates for Kiddos

Early August brought an extra boost of support to UMC Associates with school-aged children, preparing to return to the physical classroom for the upcoming school year. Thanks to funding by Denim Fridays Supporters, a campaign with Organizational and Community Engagement, nearly 500 bags filled with an 18-piece school supply kit complete with oatmeal and cereal were distributed to UMC Associates both on campus and at the clinics.



Leslie Lujan, Director of Organizational and Community Engagement, hands out bags with school supplies to UMC Associates who are parents of school-aged children.

“We know returning back to school can be a stressful time for parents,” said Leslie Lujan, Director of Organizational and Community Engagement. “We are excited that we can assist, even if in a small way, to lessen the burden on parents by handing out supplies.”

## Xochitl Gamboa Fires Up Engines in ATV Safety Initiative

Xochitl Gamboa, Manager of Trauma Grants for El Paso’s only Level 1 Trauma Center at University Medical Center is a creative woman who understands how grant-writing serves to support UMC’s Trauma Injury Prevention mission to serve and to educate.

Her commitment to blending creative forces to better serve public health has led her to identify funding for safety programs, resulting from research published by UMC Trauma Surgeons. The UMC ATV P.R.O. (Proper Riding Objective) Safety Initiative was developed as an evidence-based strategy to provide greater access for area youths to the ATV Safety Institutes’ Safety RiderCourse® to increase



**Xochitl Gamboa, is Manager of Trauma Grants at UMC.**

access to safety DOT certified helmets and eye goggles to decrease the risk of traumatic brain injury.

"This program is really special," said Xochitl. "Providing our youths and families the gold standard ATV Safety Institute Safety Education curricula, and the best riding safety gear available, will encourage lifelong responsible riding skills, normalize wearing helmets, and riding in safe areas as a socially conscience practice. Our El Paso County Youth ATV Safety Partnership is growing. We're just (revving our engines) and getting started," said Xochitl.

In early 2020, the Trauma Department was funded \$9,972 to provide helmets, goggles, safety education, and advocacy for safe riding areas. The funding enabled the first UMC P.R.O. safety course on September 26, 2020, at San Felipe Park in Fabens, Texas. Most recently, on August 7, there was a second

youth course. In February 2021, the program was selected as a "Best Practice" winner in the category of Injury Prevention by the Trauma Centers Association.

## UMC Welcomes New Pharmacy Residents to Program



**Isabel Hernandez-Fuerte, Pharm.D.**

Isabel Hernandez-Fuerte and Jose Ontiveros are our new Pharmacy Residents at UMC. This is the fourth group of two residents who have rotated through the UMC/UTEP Pharmacy Residency. The Residency is an Advanced Certificate Program with stringent requirements for graduation. The program develops clinical pharmacists responsible for the medication related care of patients with a wide range of conditions. Upon completion, residents will be eligible for board certification and



**Jose Ontiveros, Pharm.D.**

for postgraduate year-two pharmacy residency training. Residency graduates should be able to obtain a position as a clinical faculty member or clinical pharmacy specialist. Graduates of this program will be prepared to pursue credentialing in a variety of board specialty areas (e.g. BCPS, BCACP, BCGP, CDE, CACP).