



# UMC CEO: New Federal Requirements Call For Full Vaccination

*Memorandum by R. Jacob Cintron calls for all UMC Associates to receive full COVID-19 vaccinations by Jan. 4, 2022.*

On Nov. 5, 2021, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued an emergency regulation that requires all eligible staff at health care facilities to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Not adhering to the emergency regulation means risking our facilities ability to participate in the Medicare and Medicaid program.

As such, UMC joins with health systems throughout our state and country in fully complying with the emergency regulation. Phase 1 of the regulation requires that staff receive, at a minimum, the first dose of the vaccine by Dec. 6, 2021. Phase 2 requires that all staff be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by



**UMC Associates must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by Wednesday, Jan. 5.**

Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022. The new vaccine requirement applies to all workforce members, allied health, nurses, therapists, physicians, administrative and support staff, contract workers, students and volunteers.

The regulation does allow for medical and religious exemptions. Our team is currently working to update our internal policies to be in compliance with the emergency regulation to include developing the necessary forms those seeking an exemption will need to complete. Occupational Health will be reaching out to those employees that have yet to be vaccinated to ensure they are aware of the emergency regulation and answer any questions. Our team will also be reaching out to other individuals who work with UMC, including but not limited to private physicians, volunteers, students support staff, contractors, etc. You recall that UMC was involved in a vigorous vaccination effort since December 2020, which reached a vast majority of our Associates. As of today, a very small percentage of our workforce is unvaccinated.

What has and will continue to be our priority is ensuring we provide the safest environment for our patients and each other. That commitment allowed us to host a very successful survey from the Joint Commission just a few weeks ago. That visit highlighted our consistent ability to deliver the highest level of patient safety, quality and effectiveness as a hospital. Following the emergency regulation ensures we continue that commitment and is similar to similar requirements around requiring that employees be immunized against other vaccine preventable disease, including influenza, measles, mumps, pertussis and others.

You can click here to access a Frequently Asked Questions document provided by CMS. Additional information can also be found in the CMS stakeholder presentation by clicking here. In addition, should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact our Occupational Health Department at (915) 521.7884.

We have had a very trying few years, but together we have been able to provide the health care our community deserves and has come to expect. We appreciate your sacrifice and continued commitment toward our mission to heal, to serve and to educate.

## **Forums Teach UMC Associates How To “Be CAREageous!”**

As 2022 approaches, UMC Associates grew in excitement as they listened to strategy and plans for the hospital. The presentations by UMC Leadership were informative, inspiring and insightful as UMC Associates discovered the “Pillars” of the Strategic Plan for 2022: People, Growth, Service, Quality and Finance.

“The pandemic has taken everyone off their game,” said R. Jacob Cintron, President & CEO. “Thank you for the sacrifices you made.” Those who spoke were: R. Jacob Cintron, President & CEO; Maria Zampini, Chief Operating Officer; Lorena Navedo, Chief Administrative Officer; Jon Law, Chief Strategic Officer; Dave Thomsen, Chief Quality Officer, and Leticia Flores, Chief Financial Officer.



**Maria Zampini, Chief Operating Officer speaks at the Associate Forum, discussing the hospital's 2022 Strategic Plan.**

Fun and creative games were interspersed and the Associates who volunteered received impressive prizes. Everyone walked away a strong understanding of our UMC future.

## **UMC Associates Bring Excellence To Customer Service**

Customer Service Week at UMC is a super way to celebrate the compassionate work shown by our UMC Associates who serve and support our patients, their families and co-workers on a daily basis. Eleven (11) UMC Associates Departments were honored and recognized by UMC Patient Experience during Customer Service Week for “Providing Exceptional Patient Experiences!” from July 2020 to June 2021.

They include:

- UMC Medical Unit
- Mother/Baby Unit
- Ambulatory Surgical Center
- UMC West Clinic
- Dr. James Joseph, UMC Hospitalist
- Dr. Angelica Nunez, UMC Hospitalist
- Dr. Iris Iomas, UMC West
- Dr. Carmela Morales, Digestive Health Center/Endoscopy
- Dr. Karin Chambers, Texas Tech Department of Surgery
- Dr. Cesar Garcia, UMC East Clinic
- Dr. Eric Pittman, Vituity, UMC Emergency Department



Themes during Customer Service Week included wearing jerseys, Western-Day wear, Twin Day, and more! Thank you to our Associates who daily serve and support our patients, their families and co-workers.

## Best Of Luck To You, Blanca Villarreal

On Nov. 9, Blanca Villarreal bid farewell to her position as HUC and Monitor Tech in Telemetry at UMC where she worked for 24 years.

“It was my home and I loved it,” she said. “Now I am waking up late and enjoying my eight grandchildren!”

Much happiness is wished for you, Blanca!



Blanca Villarreal retired after 24 years.

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL UMC ASSOCIATES!**





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