

City & UMC Partner On COVID-19 Vaccine Registration Process

The City and University Medical Center of El Paso are preparing to centralize the registration process for the COVID-19 vaccine.

“Through the Communities of Excellence Program, we have continued to strengthen our partnership with University Medical Center. We have conducted Lean Six Sigma training together and have been able to reduce wait times at our testing and vaccine sites because of it,” said City Manager Tommy Gonzalez. “Today’s announcement is yet another example of our collaboration. By working together,



UMC vaccinates one of tens of thousands of El Pasoans at the El Paso County Coliseum.

we are demonstrating to state and federal officials that we are ramping up our coordination and communication efforts as a community to be able to put more shots in arms quicker and more efficiently.”

“Data collection and understanding of how our vaccination process is unfolding have become exceedingly important to guide the direction and location of our community’s vaccination programs,” said Jacob Cintron, UMC President & CEO. “There are great successes that UMC and the City of El Paso have partnered in

achieving before and throughout the pandemic. As Tommy notes, Communities of Excellence has made our partnership foundation strong. And one of our successes has been the collection and sharing of data. Additionally, as we look to formalize a centralized pool of vaccination recipients, I am certain we will see our shared experience and mutually beneficial efficiencies come to fruition.”

The centralization process may take some time, requiring UMC to continue opening its registration portal a few more times until the process is finalized.

Once the mechanism to share data from the City’s list is established, UMC will no longer open its online registration system but will collaborate with the City of El Paso to administer vaccines to those on the comprehensive pre-registration list.

While the process continues to be refined, UMC will request a specified amount of registrants from the City of El Paso’s pre-registration list. UMC will then contact the individuals from the pre-registration list, schedule, enter data and administer 1st/2nd doses to those individuals at the County Coliseum site. Similarly, the City will continue to administer 1st/2nd doses at one of the three City vaccine sites (George Perry, High Ridge and the Convention Center).

UMC will maintain a small portion of its weekly allocation for new healthcare personnel, patients that fall within Phase 1A or 1B, its clinics and/or for use by its single mobile unit.

For more information about data, testing and other COVID-19 information, visit www.EPStrong.org.

UMC Records Fewest Seasonal Flu Cases In Years: Mask Wear?

If you thought there were fewer discussions this year about friends or family members combatting the flu or cold viruses, it wasn’t your imagination. UMC’s flu numbers this season, thus far, are at historic low levels. The numbers tell the story.

At this time last year, UMC had more than 844 flu cases presented at the hospital. This year? Only 58 thus far. We turned to UMC’s Infection Control team to find answers. UMC’s Infection Control team tracks all infection risks at UMC and reports daily on COVID-19 cases. During flu season, the team churns through patient and infection data and then reports on the hospital’s incidents of flu.



After thorough research and examination of case studies throughout the U.S. and abroad, they have made a conclusion. “The highest scoring mitigating factor to reduce the spread of additional respiratory infections, such as Influenza, in our opinion, would be wearing the mask -- due to the fact that these viruses are spread by droplets,” said Shannon Jordan, UMC Infection Control manager. “Following close behind that is hand hygiene, disinfecting surfaces, restricting air travel, closing schools, and observing social distancing. It is probably a mix of all of the above: a large percent of people infected with SARS-CoV-2, wearing masks, washing hands, and social distancing, etc., that has supplanted (superseded/replaced) this season's Influenza, RSV and other respiratory viruses that we normally see peak during this time of year.”

Data from the World Health Organization says global flu infections are down overwhelmingly this year than prior years. Other medical professionals are also pointing to mask wear as a reason. “In the areas where people properly wear a proper mask, we will see very low rates of COVID-19 and influenza,” said Dr. Gregory Poland, infectious disease expert and head of vaccine research at the Mayo Clinic. “In the

areas where people are not compliant with mask wearing and distancing guidelines, we will see both diseases with COVID-19 more prominent because of its inherent greater infectiousness.”

Whether or not future flu seasons will include CDC recommendations to where a mask during flu season remains to be seen, but what data is showing is that during the COVID-19 pandemic, mask wear has had an impact on the cases of flu at UMC and throughout the country.

When It Comes To Healthcare Social Media, El Pasoans Turn To UMC

Thanks to a loyal and growing following of families, professionals and organizations in El Paso, UMC is now the most highly followed healthcare organization across all three major social media platforms: Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



Each platform carries health-related information, major announcements by UMC, milestones and news about

COVID-19, vaccinations, entertaining and informative videos, stories, community connections, and more.



We thank everyone who looks to UMC on social media for the information about their health that matters most to them. Our goal is to give good information and bring #BetterHealthInTheBorderland. *The icons above are linked to our Social Media pages for each.*

