

UMC CEO: Update On CMS' COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate For Healthcare Workers Must Be In Compliance, Feb. 21



You may recall that on September 9, 2020, CMS issued an emergency regulation requiring vaccination requirements for healthcare settings as a condition of participation in the Medicaid and Medicare programs.

Implementation of the mandate was on hold for several states, including Texas, given ongoing litigation.

After a decision by the Supreme Court on January 13, 2022, allowing for the mandate to move forward and a separate case by the State of Texas being dismissed on January 19, 2022, the mandate is now in effect across the country.

The CMS guidance provides a timeframe by which the hospital workforce must be in compliance.

By February 21, 2022, the workforce must have at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or request for an exemption.

The mandate does allow for a medical and/or religious exemption. Those who have not requested a medical or religious exemption by Feb. 21 or have not received their first vaccination are subject to termination within seven days.

Being vaccinated is even more important given the prevalence of the Omicron variant in our community. While we are proud that 95% of our UMC workforce is fully vaccinated, now is the time to close the 5% gap by receiving your vaccine, showing proof of having received your vaccine (for those pending proof), or filing an exemption.

Remember that the vaccine not only protects you but also your family, co-workers, our patients, their families, and the community.

UMC will continue to ensure compliance with all local, state and federal regulations while protecting the health and safety of our staff, patients and visitors.

Thank you for all you do for UMC and El Paso!

Celebrating

107 OF HEALTHCARE.

YEARS OF HEALTHCARE

UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER
OF EL PASO

When it first opened its doors in 1915, it was known as El Paso County General Hospital. In 1959, the El Paso County Hospital District was created and approved by local voters, which paved the way for a new hospital building.

The hospital was to be named R.E. Thomason General Hospital, in honor of Robert Ewing Thomason, a former mayor of El Paso and a United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas.

“As I throw this first spade of dirt,” R.E. Thomason said at the 1961 groundbreaking ceremony, “it is my hope and prayer that the fine, modern hospital to be erected on this site will stand for many years to care for the sick and suffering in El Paso and the Southwest.”

In 1963, the 335-bed R.E. Thomason General Hospital, built by Robert E. McKee General Contractor, opened to the public.

Ten years later, in 1973, the hospital was designated as the primary teaching hospital of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) and in 1975, the hospital received accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals (JCAHO).

A \$35 million dollar renovation and expansion project followed and improved its emergency department and pediatric intensive care unit. The hospital was rebranded as University Medical Center of El Paso in 2009. In honor of 107 years of service, banners citing UMC’s historic journey were placed at the main campus, located at 4815 Alameda Avenue, and at clinics throughout

1915



The El Paso County General Hospital (UMC) opened at 4915 Alameda with only 100 beds.

El Paso. UMC is pleased to share a timeline of key dates in its ambitious organizational history.

1965: At the dedication of R.E. Thomason General Hospital, Judge Thomason declares that it is “the greatest honor ever to come to me.”

1973: R.E. Thomason General Hospital becomes the primary teaching hospital of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

1975: R.E. Thomason General Hospital achieves accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals (JCAHO).

1983: The hospital undergoes a \$35 million dollar renovation and expansion project to improve its emergency department and pediatric intensive care unit.

1996 & 1998: R.E. Thomason General Hospital named as one of America’s Top 100 hospitals.

2002: R.E. Thomason General Hospital adopts the C.A.R.E. values of Community, Accountability, Respect and Excellence. These values continue to serve as a standard of care throughout the organization.

2009: R.E. Thomason General Hospital officially changes its name to University Medical Center (UMC) of El Paso.

2011: UMC completes a \$154 million dollar expansion and remodel of its Emergency Department featuring specialized units for neurology and cardiology. In addition, UMC is awarded the Presidents' Award by the National Association of Public Hospitals (NAPH), the highest honor NAPH bestows on its member hospitals.

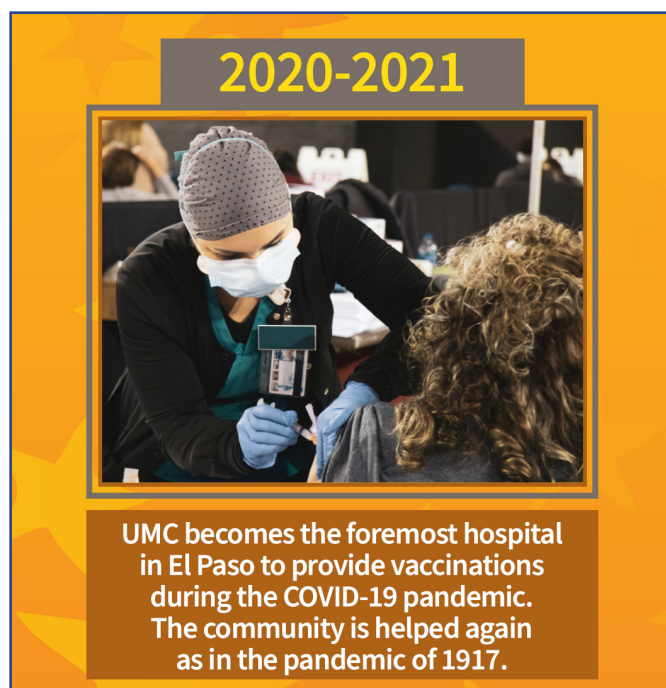
2017: The Joint Commission, the nation's highest standard for medical accreditation, designates UMC as a Comprehensive Stroke Center. Also, the State of Texas designates UMC as a Level 1 Stroke Center, a first for El Paso. Also, a new era of healthcare begins for UMC with the opening of two large Outpatient Clinics in west and east El Paso, each approximately 45,000 square feet.

2018: UMC becomes the first Level 4 Maternal Care hospital in El Paso, designated by the Texas Department of State Health Services. This is the highest designation possible for maternal care.

2019: UMC is one of two hospitals in El Paso to care for victims of the August 3, 2019, Walmart shooting that killed 23 people. UMC's expertise in trauma care ensures all of the patients at the hospital received the highest level of treatment.

2020 – 2021: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UMC becomes the foremost hospital to provide vaccinations for the El Paso community. This is the largest public health crisis since the 1918 Influenza Pandemic, when the hospital was just a few years old.

2021: UMC unveils the Mobile Stroke Unit (MSU), a specialized vehicle designed to provide rapid response to stroke victims throughout El Paso. It is the most advanced unit of its kind in the world. This same year, the UMC Mobile Health Clinic makes receiving the COVID-19 vaccine easier in El Paso County. The mobile clinic allows vaccines safe transport to pop-up vaccination sites for eligible and pre-registered residents to receive their COVID-19 vaccine without making a trip to the city.



Also in 2021, UMC Surgical Center West opens as a 24,000-square-foot facility offering top level endoscopic and neurosurgery care. In addition, UMC opens two state-of-the-art emergency departments in east and northeast El Paso, affording tens of thousands of people easy access to around-the-clock emergency services 365 days a year. Both UMC Emergency Departments offer pharmacy services and full access to UMC's Scherr Legate Level 1 Trauma Center.

Turn the page and click on the mobile phone for a short video of some of our milestones!



COVID-19 Long Hauler and UMC Patient, Felipe Varela, Thankful For UMC



Pictured from L to R: Brittany Anderson, RN; Carla Escobar, RN, Administrative Director, Neuro Program Development, Stroke Program Support; Dora Sherwood, Director of Neuro ICU/EMU; Olivia Varela, Patient's wife; Allison Rohaley, RN; Felipe Varela, Patient; Mayela Leon, HUC/NA; Michaela Miramon, RN; and Kevin Longoria, RN.

MyHealthEP PATIENT PORTAL

Provides Patients With Records & Test Results

It is stressful enough waiting for a test result for your health, and that's why UMC and El Paso Children's Hospital have MyHealthEP, a patient portal where a patient can find and safely store all of their health information in one convenient place.

"The patient portal is similar to online banking and online accounts, only it is for their medical records," said Claudia Mercado, Administrative Director of UMC Quality Management.

The biggest emphasis and benefit to the patient portal is that it gives real time access for receiving COVID-19 results from tests taken at UMC, UMC Clinics and ER. It is also a convenient way to request medication refills. The portal eliminates the unnecessary extra steps such as wait times, phone calls, transfers and holds.

The registration process is easy. Simply log in to the UMC website at www.umcelpaso.org and click on "Login."

As a long hauler of COVID-19, UMC patient, Felipe Varela, spent several months in the hospital last year from July 13 to Sept. 12 and he had no doubt the UMC team could help him get healthy again.

While being hospitalized and asked how he felt, he said he felt "good, as he knew UMC was going to treat and care for him."

Felipe credits numerous UMC Associates who tended him throughout his time at UMC. He is thankful for the staff (pictured above), who helped him get back home to his normal life.

"Thank you very much to everyone who helped me," said Felipe. "I appreciate it a lot and want to thank all of the medical staff who saved my life."

Felipe and his wife Olivia Varela are both grateful to UMC.