



LVHN WEEKLY

| YOUR WRAP-UP OF THE WEEK'S NEWS FROM LVHN



CEO Update: Welcome to LVHN Insider

LVHN President and CEO Brian A. Nester, DO, MBA, says the new app and website for colleagues will revolutionize how we communicate and connect with one another.

[Read more →](#)

All Colleagues Must Continue to Wear a Mask at LVHN



Regardless of your vaccination status, continue to wear a mask at all LVHN locations.

[Read more →](#)

Already Vaccinated? Encourage Others to Get Their Shot

If you weren't vaccinated at LVHN, submit your vaccination documentation to employee health.

[Read more →](#)



How Can I Talk With People Reluctant to Get the Vaccine?

Alex Benjamin, MD, provides tips and advice: Share personal experiences.

[Read more →](#)



Honoring Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

LVHN pays tribute to AAPI colleagues and community members.

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Get Ready to Set Goals

Here are the key dates to remember as the network goals for fiscal year 2022 are being finalized.

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Chief Nursing Officer Kim Jordan encourages nurses to set goals and engage with the community as trusted partners.

[Read more →](#)



Helping Physician, APCs, Pharmacists and Medical Students Cope During COVID

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Partner of the Month Award – May 2021

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Athlete of the Year Awards

Watch our eighth annual awards ceremony which was hosted by NBC sportscaster Amy Fadool.

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**ATHLETE
OF THE YEAR
AWARDS**

LVH-Hecktown Oaks Now Scheduling Appointments

The new campus will open in July and offer the community even greater access to a number of LVHN services.

[Read more →](#)



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Sell raffle tickets to benefit our Children's Hospital at Pocono Raceway June 25-27.

[Read more →](#)



LVHN First in Region to Obtain Mazor X Stealth(TM) Robotic Guidance Platform

It's used for select back surgeries and is a game changer for patients & surgeons. What makes it great?

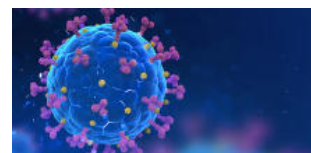
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Register for "C. Diff in the Era of COVID-19"

Hear from LVHN specialists about the impact of C. diff on hospitals and long-term care facilities during the pandemic.

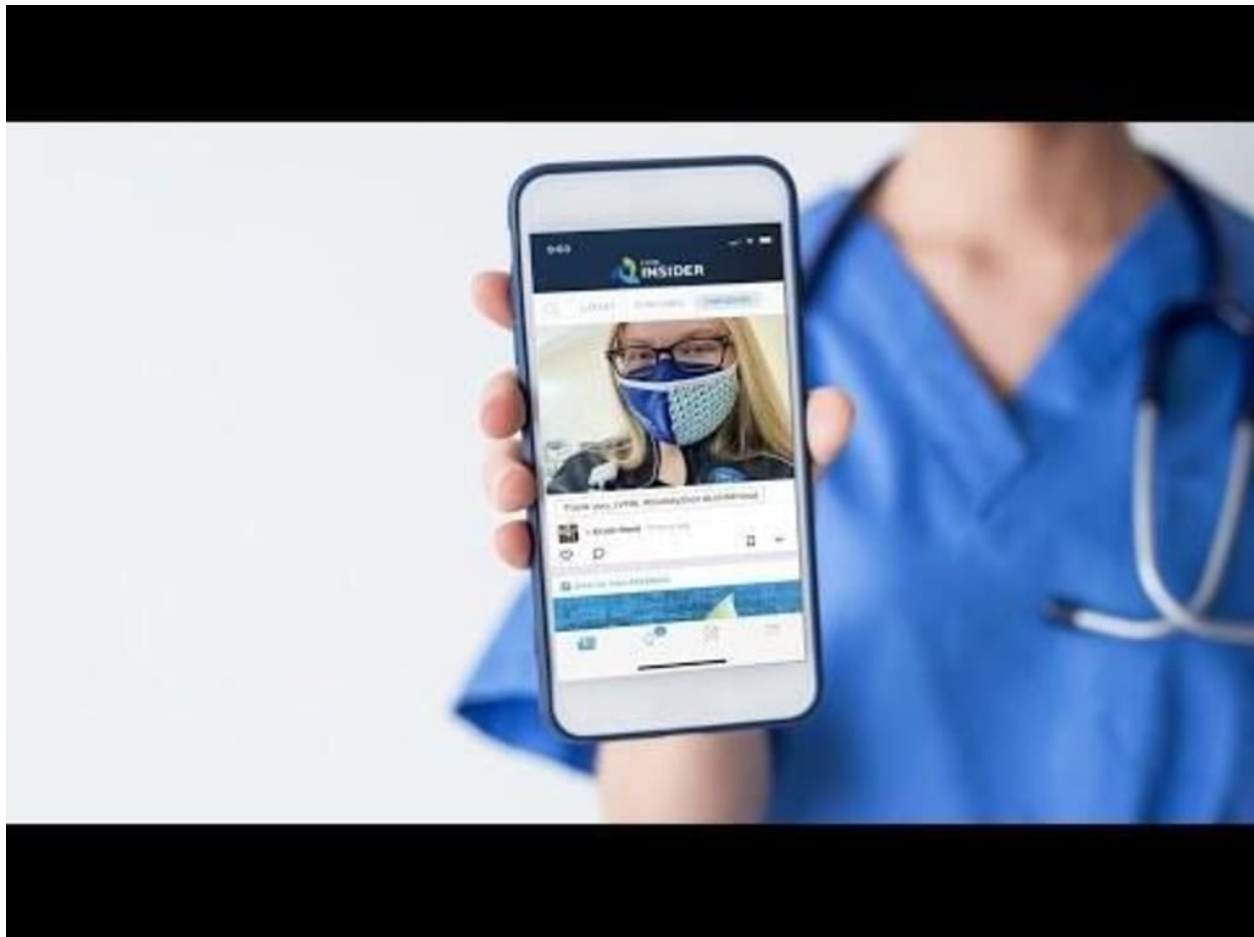
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Lehigh Valley Health Network 1200 Cedar Crest Blvd, Allentown, PA 18105

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LVHN President and CEO Brian A. Nester, DO, MBA, says the new app and website for colleagues will revolutionize how we communicate and connect with one another.

[View on www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)



by LVHN Insider



All Colleagues Must Continue to Wear a Mask at LVHN

Regardless of your vaccination status, continue to wear a mask at all LVHN locations.

LVHN Insider

Friday, May 14, 2021

As the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the [Pennsylvania Department of Health](#) release new guidance that states fully vaccinated individuals no longer need to wear a mask, it is important to know that these updated guidelines do not impact hospitals and health care organizations.

Colleagues in all LVHN locations must continue to wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth at all times, except when eating or drinking. Maintain 6 feet distances when eating or drinking.

Review our policies

The most recently published COVID-19 policies for LVHN colleagues remain in effect at all LVHN workplaces, regardless of vaccination status. Policies are available on the [COVID-19 intranet site](#). Mask use must be consistent with the current LVHN policy, according to the colleague's role and procedure being performed. [See guidelines for use of PPE](#).

What's next?

The COVID-19 leadership team thanks you for your patience as they carefully review the new CDC guidelines and determine if changes should be made to our policies. The team will soon be making a decision about the wearing of masks in nonclinical areas. Policy changes will be shared with you via email and on [LVHN Insider](#) as part of our commitment to keeping you informed.



Already Vaccinated? Encourage Others to Get Their Shot

If you weren't vaccinated at LVHN, submit your vaccination documentation to employee health.

LVHN Insider

Friday, May 14, 2021

Lehigh Valley Health Network has been the community's health care leader since the beginning of the pandemic. Your family, friends and neighbors have looked to you as a role model, knowing you are an LVHN colleague and a trusted health care partner.

Get vaccinated and encourage everyone you know to do the same

Getting vaccinated is the most important thing you can do to help stop the spread of the coronavirus. As colleagues who work for a nationally recognized health system, it's our responsibility to get vaccinated.

To protect our whole community, a large portion of our population must be vaccinated against COVID-19 and develop protective antibodies against future infection. This immunity makes spreading the virus from person to person less likely. If you have not received your vaccine, join the thousands of colleagues who have already done their part.

Submit vaccine documentation to employee health

If you received your COVID-19 vaccine at LVHN, you can [view your vaccine confirmation in MyLVHN](#). If you received your vaccine at an LVHN clinic location, including drive-through clinics and LVHN-sponsored clinic sites, no further action is required.

Submitting documentation of your vaccination received elsewhere gives employee health a full picture of vaccinated colleagues at LVHN and helps them respond appropriately to colleague and patient exposure to COVID.

If you received your COVID-19 vaccine elsewhere, it's important to submit documentation to employee health so your vaccination can be recorded in your employee medical record. Here's how:

- Upload your documentation on the COVID-19 website on the [intranet](#).
- Scan and email your documentation to the employee health nurses at your location or to Kathleen Bowers at Kathleen.K.Bowers@lvhn.org.
- Fax your documentation to your employee health office:
 - Lehigh Valley Hospital (LVH): 610-402-3223
 - LVH-Pocono: 570-420-2493
 - LVH-Hazleton: 570-501-4721
 - LVH-Schuylkill: 570-621-4257

Know where to turn for answers to your questions

Now more than ever, you serve as an LVHN advocate and can help spread important information to the people of our community. It's important you know the facts. Here's where you can access information and answers to frequently asked questions:

- Find the most recent [COVID-19 Vaccine Town Hall Q&A](#) video on **Facebook**. Watch Timothy Friel, MD, and Alex Benjamin, MD, as they answer the community's questions.
- Find colleague-specific FAQs and submit your own questions on the [COVID-19 intranet](#) site. Note: You can access the intranet only if you are on a device connected to the LVHN network. If you are working remotely, you must be connected to the LVHN network via VPN.
- Find FAQs that are relevant to colleagues and community members on [LVHN.org/vaccineFAQ](https://www.lvhn.org/vaccineFAQ). Use the information here to answer questions you get from family, friends and colleagues. Feel free to share the link with others too.

Be a good partner, share scheduling tips

Everyone 12 and older is eligible to get vaccinated, and we offer more options than ever to get your vaccine. People looking to get vaccinated can visit one of these five convenient locations with or without an appointment:

1. [COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic–Northampton Crossings](#)
2. [COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic–Pocono](#)
3. [COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic–Hazleton](#)
4. [COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic–Schuylkill](#)
5. [COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic–MacArthur Road](#)

Making an appointment for the drive-through vaccination events or any of our vaccine clinics is now simpler than ever.

Three easy ways to schedule:

1. NEW! Schedule right here.
[Make an appointment](#)
 2. Go to MyLVHN, the health network's patient portal.
[Sign In](#) [Sign Up](#)
 3. Call our COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline at 833-584-6283 (833-LVHN-CVD).
We're open Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
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Asked and Answered: How Can I Talk with People Who Are Reluctant to Get the COVID-19 Vaccine?

You asked. Alex Benjamin, MD, Chief, Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology with LVHN, answers.

May 18, 2021

BY PETE LEFFLER

Over the last several months, our region (along with the nation) has transitioned from demand for COVID-19 vaccines outpacing supply, to now having fewer people requesting the shot. We spoke with Alex Benjamin, MD, Lehigh Valley Health Network's (LVHN) Chief of Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology, to talk about what this means, and to get tips for talking with someone who is reluctant to get vaccinated. A key tip: Share personal experiences.

Q: What's your level of concern with "vaccine hesitancy" and vaccine supply outpacing demand?

A: If you decide today, 'I want a vaccine,' it's there for you. Gone is the priority tiered system, when the concern was 'jumping the line.' Having opened all that up a couple of weeks ago, we're seeing the opposite. We have lots of vaccine, and many people are signing up.

Locally, so far, we're seeing only a slight increase in unfilled appointments.

There always will be people who say, 'Definitely not, I'm not getting this vaccine.' Maybe they think 'I'm not going to get [the virus]' or, 'If I do, it won't be that bad.' You may not be able to influence this group. However, you can share your experiences with people you know who have been affected. ADDED FROM PADOH AND MAYO STATS, AND FROM EXPERTS QUOTED BY CNN And remind them that Pennsylvania still averages 2,600 new COVID cases each day, most often in patients age 20 to 60. Young patients may avoid the ER, but experience brain fog, loss of taste or smell and stubborn respiratory problems. Apart from serious illness, COVID proves fatal for two of every 100 state residents who get it.

Other reluctant people may give various reasons like – 'others are waiting,' or 'for me right now the timing is bad' – there's always a reason. I think those are people we can persuade to get vaccinated.

Now we can make the argument there's enough safety data out there from those who have gotten vaccinated; that at most you might have a fever and chills for a bit after the shots; that data shows the vaccines are keeping people out of the hospital.

One thing I tell people is: If you get sick and you come to the hospital, we can treat you but the therapies are not 90% or 95% effective like the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. And as far as vaccine side effects: Let me tell you, the side

effects of getting COVID can be so much more serious and have long-lasting impacts to your health.

Q: The widely used Pfizer and Moderna vaccines use mRNA to “teach” our own cells to be on alert for any COVID-19 infection. Help me explain that to somebody reluctant to embrace the concept.

A: The analogy I use is mRNA is like a 3D printer for the cell. The vaccine teaches our cells to produce a spike protein that triggers an immune response, creating antibodies that recognize and target any COVID cells for destruction.

The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are the first to use mRNA, but mRNA sciences have been in development for decades. Because of the pandemic, a vaccine development process that used to be very linear – Phase 1, then a time gap; Phase 2, another gap; Phase 3, studies and trials, etc. – became more simultaneous.

All those gaps disappeared. And the bureaucratic process between a Phase 3 result and getting licensing also was removed. Vaccine developers just needed two months of data to get federal approval. You’ve got a pandemic, and there was plenty of infection, so you had plenty of people to test. The studies will continue for two years; Phase 3 is ongoing for Pfizer and Moderna.

Q: What should I tell someone concerned about the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which was halted briefly by reports of rare but serious side effects? Would you recommend any segment of the unvaccinated population avoid a J&J vaccine?

A: It’s a rare event. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) did what they were supposed to do: studied the issue and found the J&J vaccine safe. If Johnson & Johnson is the only vaccine available to you, get it because the benefits outweigh the risks.

Q: What suggestions do you have for engaging people who are reluctant or afraid to be vaccinated?

A: Meet people where they are: Find out how much they know, what information or misinformation they might have heard, etc. Ask them if they know somebody who got COVID. If they did and it was mild, you can understand why they are in no hurry to get vaccinated. Personal experiences make people perceive risk differently.

Sometimes they want to hear personal stories rather than science and 'information.' Sometimes information backfires: It makes people feel, 'What do you mean my information sources are bad?' and they just shut down. Sometimes they want to hear: 'Grandma got the vaccine, and she's OK, she's doing great.' Personal stories work.

And overall, you must be patient: Keep asking; keep talking. Being persistent shows people you care about them and their health.

Q: Where do we go from here?

A: Ironically, as things improve, we are getting back together over the dinner table, and so I encourage people to have those conversations there. Find out who's vaccinated and who's not. Use the opportunity to discuss, at a personal level, ways to get people to overcome their reluctance and get the shots.

How to get a COVID-19 vaccination

LVHN offers many ways to get the COVID-19 vaccination. Visit [LVHN.org/appointments](https://lvhn.org/appointments) to immediately schedule at one of our regional locations. You also can walk in and get a COVID vaccination without an appointment at any of our COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics:

[COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic–Northampton Crossings](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic–Pocono](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic–Hazleton](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic–Schuylkill](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic–MacArthur Road](#)

Learn more at [LVHN.org/Vaccines](https://lvhn.org/Vaccines) or [LVHN.org/Vacunas](https://lvhn.org/Vacunas) (en español)



Honoring Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

LVHN pays tribute to AAPI colleagues and community members.

LVHN Insider

Friday, May 14, 2021

This message is from Lynn Turner, Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer.

During Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, I am proud to pay tribute to the generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) who have enriched our nation's history and are instrumental to our future success.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 American Community Survey, 30,014 people identify as Asian American or Pacific Islander in the five counties where LVHN currently has hospital locations: Lehigh, Northampton, Monroe, Luzerne and Schuylkill. We recognize that the representation of our AAPI colleagues and their cultural experience contributes to our ability to provide equitable care to the AAPI community and the other communities we serve at LVHN.

We live our [core values](#) when we create an environment where the voices and presence of our AAPI colleagues are celebrated and incorporated into the care

we provide to our patients and community. When all members of the LVHN family feel seen, heard and celebrated for being themselves, LVHN is at its best.



Get Ready to Set Goals

Here are the key dates to remember as the network goals for fiscal year 2022 are being finalized.

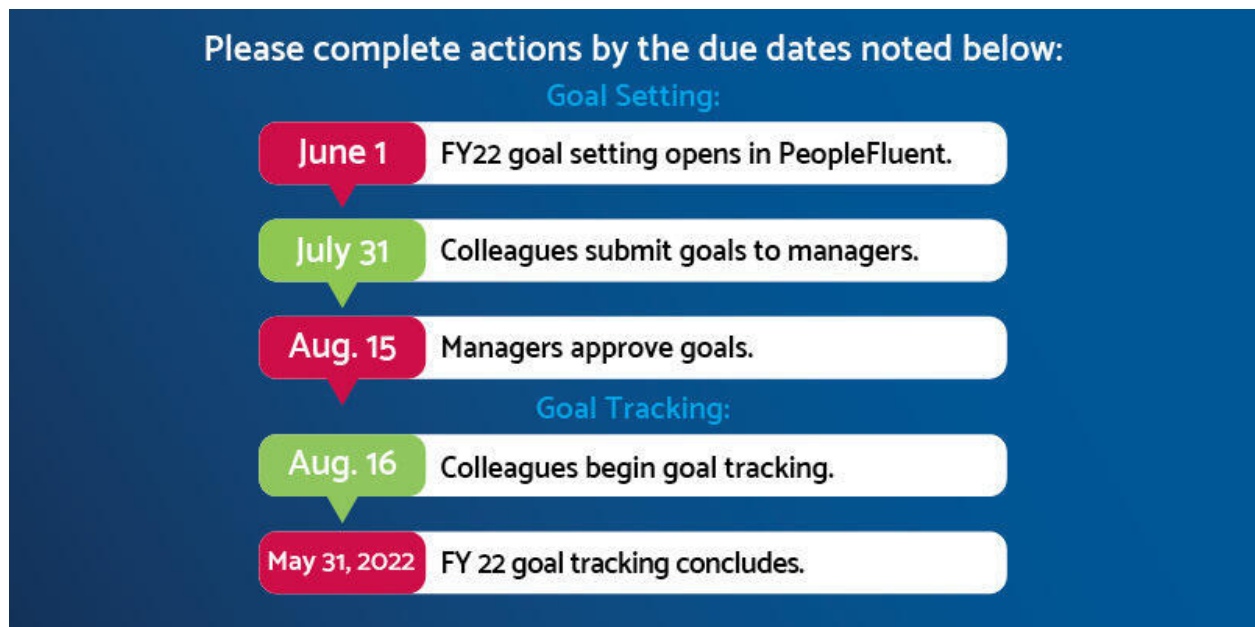
LVHN Insider

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

A draft of our network goals for fiscal year 2022 (FY22) will soon be available on the PeopleFluent dashboard. That means it's almost time to set your performance goals.

Ensuring your performance goals are tightly aligned to network goals keeps us moving forward together to create better days ahead. As a reminder, all colleagues are expected to set at least one development goal.

Consider using the new [LVHN Competency Model](#) to identify your development priorities.



Goal setting resources are available for all colleagues on the PeopleFluent dashboard under the section titled “**Performance Management Resources: Goal Setting.**” Here is one resource you can use:

- [How to Set My Goals in 5 Easy Steps](#)

Additional goal setting resources for managers:

- Read the [Goal Setting Tip Sheet](#).
- To assist managers with the goal setting process, our **Leadership and Organizational Development team is providing Take60: Goal Setting sessions** from June through mid-August 2021. Please visit the [Organizational Effectiveness \(OE\) intranet site](#) to register.

Questions?

Contact colleagues in the compensation department at HRCompensation@lvhn.org or your human resources consultant.



Focus on Professional Development and Community Engagement

Chief Nursing Officer Kim Jordan encourages nurses to set goals and engage with the community as trusted partners.

LVHN Insider

Monday, May 17, 2021

During National Nurses Week (and, this year, National Nurses Month), we recognize the contributions nurses make to the health of our community. We celebrate all our incredible nurses who practice in many settings across our health network.

Join me and the American Nurses Association in celebrating Nurses Month with a special focus each week. So far, I hope you've found time to care for yourself and that you feel recognized by your colleagues and our community. Next, let's focus on professional development and community engagement.

Week Three: Professional Development

LVHN supports professional nurses to be their best. You are leaders who are empowered to grow in your profession and help shape the future of patient care while providing compassionate, evidenced-based care.

Take time this week to reflect on your career and set one goal for yourself to work toward for the next year. Reach out to [Center for Professional Excellence](#) for support with a professional publication or presentation, [pursue specialty certification](#) or [apply for PRIME](#) if you are a nurse in the Lehigh Valley.

Explore professional development opportunities available to all colleagues through [Organizational Effectiveness](#).

P.S. The PRIME application opens today! Check your email for more information.

Week Four: Community Engagement

Nursing consistently tops the list of America's most trusted professions. We know our community turns to you for advice, guidance and reassurance. Here are two ways you can advocate for LVHN in your community.

Get vaccinated and encourage everyone you know to do the same

If you already received your vaccine, thank you for doing your part! If you have not received your vaccine, join the thousands of colleagues who have already done so. As trusted nurses who work for a nationally recognized health system, it's our responsibility to get vaccinated. Be a good role model and encourage everyone you know to get vaccinated.

Spread the word: LVHN is a Great Place to Work

I know you have concerns about patient care services staffing, and I want you to know we are doing everything we can to recruit nurses to join our team. You can help by sharing career opportunities with your personal and professional network. You can also share the news that LVHN is nationally recognized as a great place to work.

- LVHN is one of the [2021 Best Workplaces in Health Care & Biopharma™ by Great Place to Work® and Fortune](#)

- LVHN is [certified as a “Great Place to Work”](#)

Plus, when you refer a qualified candidate for select positions you could be eligible to [earn a referral bonus](#). If you know an experienced nurse, encourage him or her to take a serious look at LVHN by visiting [LVHN.org/careers](https://www.lvhn.org/careers).

Thank you

I said it once and I'll say it again. A simple “thank you” doesn't feel like enough to express my genuine gratitude, appreciation and admiration for all that you do in service of others. However, I hope you feel my gratitude and appreciate for all that you do.

Happy Nurses Month!

Kim

P.S. Just a reminder, my email is open to you. Send ideas or questions to me at Marie.Jordan@lvhn.org.



Helping Physician, APCs, Pharmacists and Medical Students Cope During COVID

LVHN's physician mentor program, support line and counseling services give you someone to talk to.

LVHN Insider

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. LVHN offers many services to colleagues to enhance mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Look for stories all month long about wellness programs and services available to you. Here, we provide information to help physicians and clinicians cope with their unique stressors.

At LVHN, we all benefit from the skills and experience of our dedicated colleagues who support our patients, their families and one another. The following support services are provided by colleagues who understand the unique stressors of their peers.

Physicians-for-Physicians Program

With the pandemic turning our world upside down, there are many mental health challenges that colleagues continue to face every day. It's common to feel intense emotions. LVHN recently started the Physicians-for-Physicians program to promote colleague wellness. The program encourages open dialogue between fellow clinicians who can readily offer practical, real-world advice and guidance in a moment's notice.

"We trained a group of physician mentors in basic emotional first aid," says Carolyn Lamparella, Director of Preferred EAP and member of the LVHN Wellness Committee. "The program is designed to give a physician, medical student, advanced practice clinician (APC) or pharmacist somebody to talk to without being on the record."

Program mentors are volunteers who talk to their peers honestly about everything from patient problems and feelings of burnout to anxiety related to

litigation. The process starts with a one-on-one conversation. If you need additional support, more conversations will be scheduled. The mentor may also refer you to other helpful resources.

The benefit of the program is that it offers a “safe zone” for clinicians right after an adverse or stressful event occurs. Conversations will not be shared with anyone. You may choose from a list of Physicians-for-Physicians peer support mentors.

Physicians, medical students, APCs and pharmacists are encouraged to reach out to a Physicians-to-Physicians peer support mentor by calling Preferred EAP at 610-433-8550. For more information, contact Carolyn Lamparella at 610-433-8550 (Carolyn.lamparella@lvhn.org).

Physician Support Line

The Physician Support Line is staffed by volunteer psychiatrists. Call 888-409-0141 between 8 a.m. and 1 a.m.

Preferred EAP Counseling

LVHN offers mental health support to physicians who are feeling overwhelmed by anxiety, stress or work-related problems. Preferred EAP has trained counselors ready to help you gain clarity of mind and freedom from negative emotions. All services are kept confidential. Call 610-433-8550 or 800-327-8878 to schedule a consultation with a therapist.

COVID-19 Women Physicians’ Emotional Well-Being Social Media Group

This private virtual space is open to female physicians who want to talk about their emotional experience during the pandemic. This support group is not limited to LVHN physicians.



Partner of the Month Award – May 2021

Molly Simon's personal act of generosity and compassion wrapped a patient in warmth on a cold winter day.

LVHN Insider

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Molly Simon, Registration, Patient Access Department, LVH–Pocono

On a wintery day in December, Molly Simon was working as a temperature screener in the main lobby at LVH–Pocono. An older patient was sitting in the lobby waiting for a taxi to pick her up. The patient's belongings had been lost during her hospital stay, so she had to brave the cold, damp weather in a hospital gown and blanket. When Simon noticed the woman was uncomfortable, she retrieved her own coat and gave it to the patient to wear home. The smile on the patient's face said it all. She was very grateful for this generosity. Simon touched this patient's life with a seemingly simple, but profound gesture. "It's not every day that one comes across someone who

would literally give someone the shirt or coat right off their back,” says nominator Candice Pesotini. “Molly went above and beyond and displayed what health care is really about. You never know what someone is going through, therefore such a simple act of kindness may mean the world to a perfect stranger.”

Next Steps

Nominate a Partner of the Month.

Congratulate these Proud Partners Award recipients.

Christine Rivera, RN, Home Care

While traveling to see a patient, Rivera was involved in a serious car accident that required a rescue team to free her from the car. During this time, Rivera still thought about the well-being of the patients she was scheduled to see that day. She called home care to let them know she would be late to her appointments.

Thomas Kohler and David Lawrence, Security, LVH–Cedar Crest

A man came into the hospital covered in blood. His left arm had been badly injured from operating industrial machinery. Working quickly, Kohler and Lawrence assisted in getting the patient into a wheelchair and to the trauma bay. They helped cut the patient’s clothes off so the trauma team could evaluate his injuries as soon as they arrived. Kohler and Lawrence ensured this challenging situation was met with resolve and dignity.

Jarlyn Ortiz, Rebecca Klausfelder, Jody Anthony and Frank Sperraza, DO, LVPG Family Medicine–Southside

When the staff at LVPG Family Medicine–Southside learned one of their patients wasn’t receiving scheduled home physical therapy or Meals on Wheels, they took action. They followed-up to remedy the oversight. During the patient’s office visit, they also treated him to lunch.

Ashley Georgevic, RN, Neurology, and Eric Gertner, MD, LVPG Internal Medicine

After an ALS patient was diagnosed with COVID-19, Georgevic and Gertner worked together to make sure the patient, who was completely overwhelmed with the diagnosis, and his family got the best home care and COVID-19 monitoring. As a result, the patient recovered. Their attentive team effort kept this patient safe.

Carla Gray, Case Management, LVH–Muhlenberg

Gray dedicated many hours to coordinating a safe discharge plan for a homeless patient with very complex needs. Collaborating with Street Medicine, she obtained health insurance coverage for the patient, made follow-up appointments and secured important medications. Gray stepped up for this patient and maintained a courteous, caring and professional attitude throughout the process.

Sharon Kromer, BSN, Manager, Center for Connected Care and Innovation

An elderly patient with COVID-19 and her husband needed monoclonal antibody infusions to treat their illness. After talking with the patient over the phone and sensing her distress, Kromer urged the patient to go to the emergency department (ED) right away. Kromer then called the ED to make appropriate arrangements for the patient's treatment. Kromer's calm, open communication ensured this patient and her husband were successfully treated.

Lynda Workman, RN, Karen Seabourne and Lindsey Gerrity, Breast Health Services, LVH–Cedar Crest

A patient was scheduled to have plastic surgery within one week. However, the team discovered the patient had not had a mammogram in five years and recently found a lump in her breast. Consequently, they made time for this patient to be seen within one day for an exam, mammogram and ultrasound, putting the unique needs of this patient first.

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARDS



Athlete of the Year Awards

Watch our eighth annual awards ceremony which was hosted by NBC sportscaster Amy Fadool.

<https://www.wlvt.org/television/athlete-of-the-year/>

by LVHN Insider



Lehigh Valley Hospital–Hecktown Oaks Now Scheduling Appointments

Lehigh Valley, Pa., May 17, 2021

Lehigh Valley Hospital (LVH)–Hecktown Oaks is scheduling appointments ahead of its July 1, 2021 opening. The newest campus located in the heart of Northampton County at the corner of Route 33 and Hecktown Road (3780 Hecktown Road, Easton, Pa.) will offer the community even greater access to a number of Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) health and wellness services. We are now scheduling appointments for the following practices:

- **Breast Health Services at LVH–Hecktown Oaks**
- **Cardiac Diagnostic Center at LVH–Hecktown Oaks**
- **LVPG Advanced Spine Center–Hecktown Oaks**
- **LVPG Cardiology–Hecktown Oaks**
- **LVPG Chiropractic Medicine–Hecktown Oaks**
- **LVPG Family Medicine–Hecktown Oaks**
- **LVPG Hematology Oncology–Hecktown Oaks**

- **LVPG Orthopedics and Sports Medicine–Hecktown Oaks**
- **LVPG Pain Specialists–Hecktown Oaks**
- **LVPG Surgical Oncology–Hecktown Oaks**
- **Rehabilitation Services–Hecktown Oaks**

Even more services closer to home

In addition to the practices listed above, patients can expect the services below beginning July 1.

- **Lehigh Valley Institute for Surgical Excellence** – Areas of focus include orthopedics, ENT (ear, nose and throat), urology, vein, breast, plastic surgery, general surgery and minimally invasive robotic procedures. There will be four state-of-the-art surgical suites.
- **Emergency room** – 24/7 emergency care for children and adults will be provided, with a dedicated space for kids.
- **Advanced imaging** – Several advanced imaging options will be available, including MRI, PET/CT, ultrasound, X-ray and fluoroscopy.

You can schedule appointments at LVH–Hecktown Oaks by calling 888-402-LVHN or by visiting LVHN.org/HecktownOaks.



Volunteers Needed for NASCAR Race Weekend

Sell raffle tickets to benefit our Children's Hospital at Pocono Raceway June 25-27.

LVHN Insider

Thursday, May 20, 2021

Volunteers are needed to help sell 50/50 raffle tickets throughout the infield and main grandstands during the NASCAR Cup Series races at Pocono Raceway June 25-27.

All volunteers will be trained in using a hand-held computer device to complete the raffle ticket sales. The raffle is being conducted by the Mattioli Foundation for the benefit of Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital. Over the last five years, through the work of our volunteers, we have raised more than \$160,000.

Volunteers are needed Friday, Saturday and Sunday of race weekend. All volunteers receive a free T-shirt to be worn the day of their shift, parking is free, and it's an easy, fun way to spend a summer day. More details on volunteering and online registration can be found on [Sign Up Genius](#). Feel free

to register for more than one shift and invite your family and friends to volunteer with you! Be prepared to provide volunteer names, a contact phone number and an email address that will be used to send your shift confirmation. After you register, you'll receive a confirmation email with more details that will be helpful to you. Contact [Kate Booth](#) with any questions.

LVHN is proud to continue our partnership with Pocono Raceway as a sponsor and the official health care provider for its NASCAR races. Our presence at these events is a wonderful collaboration that also benefits our health network. For a complete schedule of the daily activities taking place at the track, visit poconoraceway.com.



LVHN First in the Region to Obtain Mazor X Stealth(TM) Edition Robotic Guidance Platform

May 18, 2021

BY KATIE CAVENDER

[Lehigh Valley Health Network \(LVHN\)](#) is the first health network in the region to obtain [Mazor X Stealth™ Edition Robotic Guidance Platform](#). This robot is used for select back surgeries and is a game changer for patients and surgeons. So, what makes it so great? Here are the top five reasons.

1. Enhanced pre-surgery planning

Prior to the Mazor X Stealth Edition Robotic Guidance Platform, pre-surgery planning included a computed tomography (CT scan). The surgeon would review the image and plan for the surgery, but at times adjustments would have to be made during surgery, such as adjusting the size of a screw. With Mazor X Stealth Edition Robotic Guidance Platform, surgeons have a 3D view of a patient's anatomy. This means there's no question when it comes to planning and details like the size of a surgical screw. The technology enables your surgeon to customize the approach to match your specific needs. Surgeons also can rehearse the procedure before even performing it using the software.

2. Greater precision

Part of pre-surgery planning includes determining where incisions and surgical screws should be placed. During the procedure, the surgeon guides the robot to execute the prepared plan with precision. "In a typical lumbar surgery there is an up and down, side to side motion of the surgeon's hand that allows for margin of error," says [Luis Cervantes, MD, with LVPG Neurosurgery](#). "The robot eliminates any motion or variation that could occur by human hand."

"During minimally invasive spine surgery the surgeon cannot visualize the spine, and the robot allows us to see it in three dimensions and precisely aligns everything," says [Jeffrey McConnell, MD, with LVPG Orthopedics and Sports Medicine](#). "The surgeon can make small incisions, and in three simple steps a screw can be placed in the vertebra. We no longer have to keep referring to a live X-ray image and make constant adjustments during the surgery." This brings us to the next reason Mazor X Stealth Edition Robotic Guidance Platform is changing back surgery – increased visibility.

3. Increased visibility during surgery

Previously surgeons couldn't see the other screws that were placed during the procedure. They only had the original CT scan and X-rays taken during the procedure as a reference. "The robot allows surgeons to visualize where to

make incisions,” Cervantes says. “Now we are able to see where instrumentations line up to each other during surgery.” Even during the procedure, surgeons can visualize a patient’s anatomy and surgical implementation in 3D.

4. Reduced surgery time

Mazor X Stealth Edition Robotic Guidance Platform reduces the time it takes to place spine instrumentation. “It allows us to perform the least invasive surgery possible,” McConnell says. “This minimizes pain and allows patients to get back to normal life sooner.”

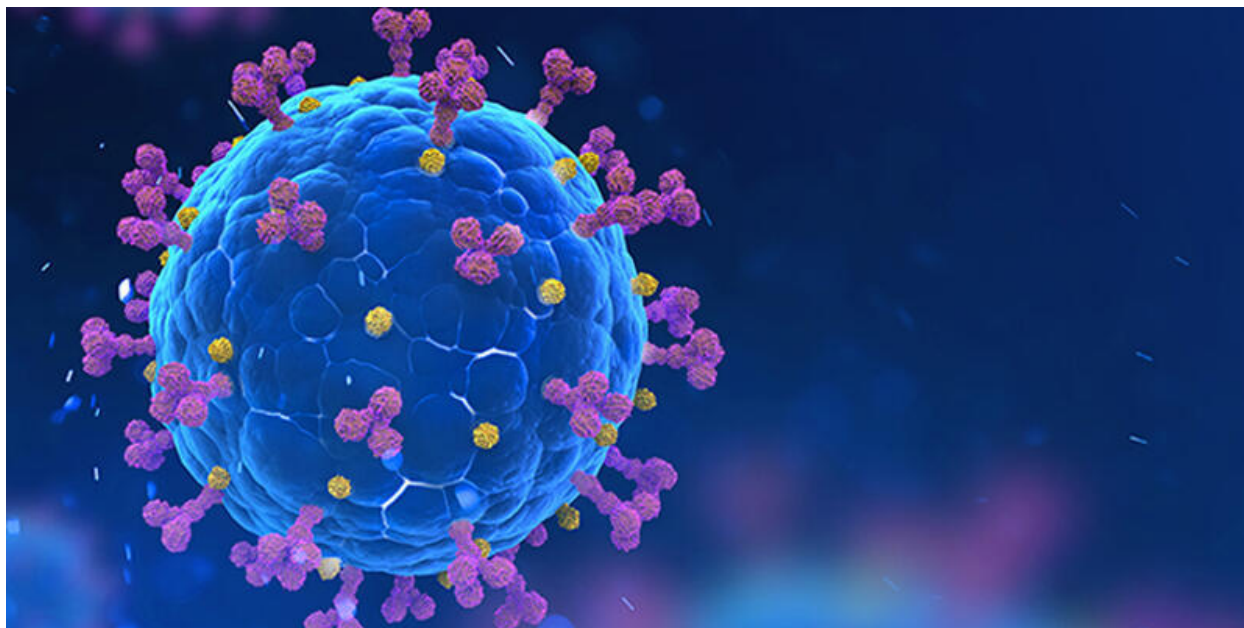
5. Less X-ray exposure

Prior to Mazor X Stealth Edition Robotic Guidance Platform, after a screw was inserted into the spine, the surgeon would take X-rays to view the position of the screw before moving on to the next step in the procedure. Now the surgery can be planned preoperatively on computer software, eliminating the need for multiple X-rays during the operation, which means less radiation exposure for patients and the care team.

Mazor X Stealth Edition Robotic Guidance Platform can be used in the treatment of many spine conditions, such as spinal instability (too much motion in spine) that produces pain or spinal abnormalities like scoliosis.

“LVHN’s continued investment to acquire the latest surgical technologies shows our commitment to offer patients the best care possible,” says [Michael Pasquale, MD, Physician in Chief, Lehigh Valley Institute for Surgical Excellence](#). LVHN was among the first of three institutions in the world to acquire [IRIS](#), a 3D technology used during robotic surgery for imaging of a patient’s anatomy for partial nephrectomies (kidney surgery to remove diseased tissue). LVHN also is first in the state to offer extended reality or XR (the combination of virtual reality, augmented reality and mixed reality) for brain surgery. “LVHN is known for excellence in surgical care, and our addition of the Mazor X Stealth Edition Robotic Guidance Platform is an example of why people have come to know us for leading-edge technology.”

Learn more about [Lehigh Valley Institute for Surgical Excellence](#).



Register for “C. Diff in the Era of COVID-19”

Hear from LVHN specialists about the impact of C. diff on hospitals and long-term care facilities during the pandemic.

LVHN Insider

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

LVHN is proud to join Project ECHO, an innovative telehealth program designed to connect health care specialists with providers located at distant sites. Project ECHO aims to help eliminate health care inequities through the use of telehealth technology.

You are invited to LVHN's Project ECHO presentation, “C. diff in the Era of COVID-19.” Luther Rhodes, MD, LVHN infectious disease physician, Jarrod Kile, RPh, LVHN clinical pharmacist, Deborah Fry, MBA, LVHN Director of Infection Control and Prevention, and Eric Young, MD, LVHN infectious disease physician will be discussing C. diff and its impact on hospitals and long-term care facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Friday, May 21, noon