

**Joan Farrell**

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**From:** LVHN Insider <no-reply@insider.lvhn.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 19, 2021 3:09 PM  
**To:** Joan Farrell  
**Subject:** LVHN Weekly: Vaccines Save Lives, Third Shot for Immunocompromised, and More



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



### **CEO Update: Vaccines Save Lives**

Dr. Nester discusses our new vaccination policy and re-affirms our commitment to safety.

[Read more →](#)

### **LVHN Providing Third COVID-19 Shot for Immunocompromised**





[Read more →](#)

### **Is Your Department an Engagement Megastar?**

Treats are coming your way if your department achieved a high engagement score in the Colleague Survey.



[Read more →](#)

### **Partner of the Month Award – August 2021**

Under pressure, Gail Lutsky and Valentine Croft worked skillfully to save a patient’s life.



[Read more →](#)

### **Check Out My Total Health’s Wellness Calendar**

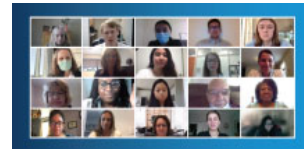
During National Wellness Month, My Total Health makes it easy for you to live a healthy and balanced life.



[Read more →](#)

### **Welcome New Colleagues Who Attended Connections Aug. 9**

We have 129 new colleagues in the LVHN family.



[Read more →](#)

### **Changes Made at Café at LVH–Cedar Crest**

Morrison Healthcare is introducing these changes to make your café experience more convenient.



[Read more →](#)

### **Get \$5 Tickets to Valley Preferred Cycling Center**

Colleagues can get discounted tickets for the remainder of the 2021 season.



[Read more →](#)

## Dynamic Duo's Pillows Soften Post-Transplant Road

Transplant coordinator, mom provide more than 660 kidney- and pancreas-shaped cushions since 2016.

[Read more →](#)



## LVHN Research Scholars Representing 21 Schools Complete Virtual Program

Read about the experiences of 30 research scholars from senior research scholar Collin Duff.

[Read more →](#)



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

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## LVHN Providing Third COVID-19 Shot for Immunocompromised

LVHN is providing a third shot to people whose immunity is weakened by certain health conditions or medications.

LVHN Insider  
Monday, August 16, 2021

**This message is from Alex Benjamin, MD,  
Chief Infection Control and Prevention Officer, LVHN**

Starting today, Aug. 16, Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) is providing a third COVID-19 vaccine shot to people whose immunity is weakened by certain health conditions or medications.

Shot registration is encouraged, though walk-ins will be accepted.

COVID-19 vaccinations, including the third shot for immunocompromised patients, will continue to be offered at all LVHN hospital-based clinics and stand-alone locations like those in Whitehall and Palmer townships.

Thank you to LVHN colleagues who worked extremely hard to prepare for the administration of these third shots.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) late Thursday, Aug. 12, recommended third shots of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines for immunocompromised patients, those with weakened immune systems. On Friday, Aug. 13, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), followed with its guidance, formalizing the approval for a third shot of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines.

The FDA and CDC recommend a third vaccine shot for those with a range of conditions, such as recipients of organ or stem cell transplants, people with advanced or untreated HIV infection, active recipients of treatment for cancer, people who are taking some medications that weaken the immune system, and others. More detailed information can be found at [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

While LVHN will not require proof of an immunocompromising condition or COVID antibody levels, patients will be asked if they have one of the immunocompromising conditions defined by the CDC. If the patient doesn't have one of the listed immunocompromising conditions, they can attest that their medical provider agrees they are immunocompromised for other reasons and would benefit from an additional dose.

There was no additional shot guidance for those who are immunocompromised and received the single shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Those individuals should consult their physician.

Along with encouraging immunocompromised patients to get a booster shot, please join me in urging the unvaccinated to also get their shots to protect against COVID-19. We can all be COVID-19 vaccine ambassadors. To date, LVHN has administered more than 418,000 COVID-19 vaccine shots. That's an amazing number, but not where we need to be as a community.

This is a pandemic of the unvaccinated and we urge any eligible person who hasn't yet rolled up their sleeve to do so. It's the right thing to do to help protect yourself and those around you and help end this pandemic.

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### **NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT**

# Four Great COVID Vaccination Opportunities in August in the Lehigh Valley

Walk-ins are welcome to receive safe, effective COVID-19 protection

By **Joe Nixon**  
August 17, 2021



If you're ready for your COVID-19 vaccine, Lehigh Valley Health Network remains ready for you.

LVHN is partnering with four Lehigh Valley schools – including two colleges – for vaccination clinics this month. Clinics are open to the public and walk-ins are welcome.

Vaccines are safe and effective against COVID, including the delta variant.

Those who are moderately or severely immunocompromised also can come to the clinics for a third shot of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. A third shot was recently recommended by the FDA and CDC to provide added immunity for those whose immune systems are compromised by certain medical conditions or medications. Learn more about the [third shot](#).

[Being vaccinated is essential to save lives and help us all see our way out of this pandemic.](#)

The Pfizer vaccine will be administered for first-time vaccine recipients and is free of charge. It is a two-dose vaccine.

Here's the breakdown:

- **Joseph P. Liberati Intermediate School (Southern Lehigh School District)**, 5438 PA-378, Center Valley, PA; Aug. 19, 5-7 p.m. Second shot at the same location, Sept. 9, 5-7 p.m.

- **Lafayette College**, 223 Pfenning Alumni Center (Hamilton Street), Easton; Aug. 24, 3-6 p.m. Second shot at the same location Sept. 14, 3-6 p.m.
- **Parkland High School**, 2700 N. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown; Aug. 25, 1-3 p.m. in the cafeteria. Second shot at the same location, Sept. 16, 9-11 a.m.
- **Cedar Crest College**, 100 College Dr., Allentown. Aug. 26, 2-5 p.m. at the Tompkins College Center. Second shot at the same location Sept. 16, 2-5 p.m.

Signs will be posted at all clinic locations. Clinics are open to anyone 12 and older. Anyone under 18 will need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian to receive the vaccination.

Being vaccinated is essential to save lives and help us all see our way out of this pandemic. If you have questions or concerns about getting vaccinated, visit [LVHN.org/vaccines](https://www.lvh.org/vaccines) for answers.

Read inspiring [COVID-related stories](#), like the first-person account of [Earleen Smith](#), a former vaccine skeptic, who's now a vaccine advocate.



## Introducing Lehigh Valley Heart and Vascular Institute



Our heart and vascular programs are joining forces to provide the most comprehensive care.

LVHN Insider  
Friday, August 13, 2021

**This message is from Ronald Freudenberger, MD, MBA,  
Physician in Chief, Lehigh Valley Heart and Vascular Institute.**

Lehigh Valley Health Network's world-class heart and vascular programs are joining forces to provide the most comprehensive cardiovascular care in the region.

Lehigh Valley Heart Institute is now Lehigh Valley Heart and Vascular Institute.



LVHN's vascular and endovascular surgery programs were part of Lehigh Valley Institute for Surgical Excellence. Bringing these two programs together was a logical step given existing synergies. More importantly, putting heart and vascular care under one roof benefits the communities we serve through more coordinated and streamlined patient care that offers new and comprehensive treatment alternatives, exciting research opportunities and more.

Leadership changes are happening as the new institute gets underway.

James Guzzo, MD, Chief, Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, is leaving LVHN after nine years of service to the community. Jim's passion for his work, his patients and for LVHN will be missed. We wish him well and are grateful for his skill and leadership.

Eric Wilson, MD, will be our interim chief while a national search is conducted. Eric has been with LVHN for 10 years and his expertise and experience will continue to be an asset for both the new institute and our patients.

Heart disease is still the leading cause of death in the U.S., and demand for cardiovascular services is projected to increase driven by higher cardiovascular disease rates and a rapidly aging population.

Becoming a hub of expertise for cardiac and vascular care will allow us to be an even more effective health partner for those who depend on us every day. We're excited to be taking this

next leadership step to provide the highest quality heart and vascular care to the people of our communities.

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## Reminder: Time is Running Out to Complete COVID-19 TLC

This course is an OSHA requirement for all colleagues.

LVHN Insider

Thursday, August 12, 2021

**This message is from Timothy Friel, MD, Chair, Department of Medicine, and Alex Benjamin, MD, Chief Infection Control and Prevention Officer.**

LVHN remains fully committed to protecting colleagues from the potential dangers of COVID-19. A new mandatory TLC course has been developed to keep members of the LVHN community educated and informed about best practices to keep health care workers safe. Formal education about COVID-19 safety is a new requirement of the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

On June 21, OSHA issued an [emergency temporary standard \(ETS\)](#) to protect health care workers from contracting COVID-19. The standard focuses on health care workers most likely to have contact with someone infected with the virus. OSHA announced the new standard alongside new general industry guidance, both of which are aligned with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance.

The standard follows the science and will provide increased protections for those whose health is at heightened risk from coronavirus while they provide critical health care services. Given the pace of vaccinations, the standard – along with the guidance OSHA, the CDC and other agencies have released – will help protect front-line health care workers.

While LVHN already had the core components of the standard in place for some time, OSHA also requires that all health care employers provide and document specific training to all employees so they comprehend COVID-19 transmission, tasks and situations in the workplace that could result in infection, and relevant policies and procedures. To meet this requirement, this new TLC has been created. All colleagues will receive an email when the training is available and must complete the course in one month.

If you have any questions, please contact Infection Control and Prevention at 610-402-9446. Thank you in advance for completing this important TLC.

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## **Don't Visit LVHN Without Your Face Mask**

LVHN reminds visitors that masks are required in our hospitals and health care settings.

LVHN Insider

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Pennsylvania Department of Health, face masks must be worn in health care facilities.

LVHN requires all visitors to wear a face mask in our hospitals and health care settings at all times, regardless of vaccination status. These guidelines are in place for the safety of our patients, visitors and colleagues. Wearing a face mask helps protect those who may be more vulnerable to COVID-19.

Those who refuse to wear a face mask when visiting LVHN facilities will be asked to put on a face mask or leave. Colleagues are encouraged to call LVHN Public Safety for assistance with visitors who are reluctant to wear a mask or comply with requests to leave LVHN facilities.

**Here are all the LVHN and Coordinated Health locations visitors must bring and wear a face mask:**

- Lehigh Valley Health Network hospitals
- Lehigh Valley Physician Group practices
- Coordinated Health hospitals
- Coordinated Health practices
- All LVHN and Coordinated Health rehabilitation centers
- All LVHN and Coordinated Health locations that provide health care

Thank you for your attention to face mask requirements for the safety and health of all patients, visitors and colleagues.

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## **Personalize Your LVHN Insider Experience: Join Channels Today**

Make sure you're not missing out on posts you want to see.  
Learn how to join channels.

LVHN Insider

Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Information in LVHN Insider is shared in **channels**. All colleagues automatically join LVHN News and Updates and COVID-19 Updates to make sure you never miss a critical update. But,

did you know [you have the option to join nearly 20 different channels](#) based on region, role, topic or interest?

## Discover and join channels

Join channels that align with your interests and role. Here's how:

- Click the **Discover** tab on the [app](#) or on the [web](#).
- Select **View All Channels** and join channels that are most relevant or interesting to you to personalize the content in your feed

You also can click [here](#) to browse the full list of channels in LVHN Insider. Remember, unless you join a channel, you won't see posts from that channel in your feed.

Want to help spread the word? Tag your colleagues in the comments section of this post to be sure they know how to join channels.

## Interact with posts in your feed

After you've joined the channels that are most relevant or interesting to you, you will see posts from that channel appear in your feed.

- **View stories, photos and videos.** Click or tap on the article, image or video in your feed. Commenting on posts allows you to have your voice heard and connect and engage like never before. [Remember our core values when you comment on a post in LVHN Insider](#). You can return to your feed from viewing any post by selecting the back arrow.
  - **Like what you see? "Heart" it.** If you like a post in LVHN Insider, you can [let us know with a simple heart](#). We want to know what posts in LVHN Insider are most relevant and interesting to you. Now you can let us know what you think by tapping the heart in the corner of any post on LVHN Insider.
  - **Bookmark stories or videos to read or watch later.** Don't have time to read a post now, but want to come back to it later? Bookmark stories or videos to read or watch later by clicking the bookmark icon. You'll see your bookmarked items ordered by date in the [bookmarks menu under your profile](#).
  - **Share posts with your colleagues.** You can [share a photo, video or link with colleagues](#) in the [#LVHN Proud channel](#).
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## Share Your #1 Selfies in Celebration of LVH Ranking No. 1 on U.S. News

Share your selfies to the #LVHNProud channel and you could be featured on social media.

LVHN Insider

Friday, August 13, 2021

Lehigh Valley Hospital is [No. 1 in the region and top five in the state on U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals list](#) thanks to you. U.S. News & World Report consistently recognizes outstanding colleagues among the top providers around the nation. For that, you should be #LVHNProud.

### Share your selfies

Show that you are #LVHNProud by posting your "We're #1" selfies to the #LVHNProud Channel on LVHN Insider. Here's how:

- **From the app:** In the bottom navigation bar, tap the pencil icon. Select **Image**. Create your post. Tap **Send to** and choose **#LVHNProud**. Tap **Post**.

- **From the web:** Click the pencil icon in the top right-hand corner. Select **Image**. Create your post. Click **Send to** and choose **#LVHNProud**. Click **Publish**.

### Join the #LVHNProud channel

Don't miss out on posts from your colleagues. Here's how to join the #LVHNProud channel.

1. Click **Discover** to see [all channels](#)
2. Scroll until you see **#LVHNProud** and click '**Join**'
3. Your feed will now be personalized with posts from the #LVHNProud channel

Remember, if you don't join channels, you won't see posts published to those channels. [Learn how to browse and join channels.](#)

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## Is Your Department an Engagement Megastar?

Treats are coming your way if your department achieved a high engagement score in the Colleague Survey.

Colleagues from the 24 departments that achieved the highest engagement scores in our recent Colleague Engagement Survey will soon receive special treats and well-deserved kudos. Leaders from these high-scoring departments will soon reward their teams for being Colleague Engagement Megastars!

To thank these colleagues for making their departments and LVHN a great place to work and grow, each department will receive a crystal award and other fantastic goodies!

If your department is an Engagement Megastar, you'll be receiving the recognition you deserve very soon. Watch for the Megastar reveal! Visit LVHN Insider soon for photos of colleagues from the Engagement Megastar departments.

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## **Partner of the Month Award – August 2021**

Under pressure, Gail Lutsky and Valentine Croft worked skillfully to save a patient's life.

LVHN Insider  
Thursday, August 19, 2021

### **Valentine Croft and Gail Lutsky, Alternatives Partial Hospitalization Program, LVH–Muhlenberg**

Patients in the Alternatives Partial Hospitalization Program attend daily sessions for behavioral health treatment as an alternative to hospitalization. During the last year, some patients participated virtually. One morning, a new patient called to inform Program Director Gail Lutsky that she wouldn't be attending the day's session because of a doctor's appointment. When Lutsky



tried to get more information, the patient hung up the phone. Licensed Professional Counselor Valentine Croft immediately called the patient back and discovered that she had tried to harm herself. The patient refused to disclose her exact location but did reveal the initials of a hotel where she was staying. Croft kept the patient on the phone for nearly an hour trying to get a clear address. Meanwhile, the police traced the location through GPS, arrived at the hotel and transported the patient to LVH–Cedar Crest. The patient was in critical condition but recovered from the incident. “The skill in engaging the patient, building her trust to disclose her location and the teamwork that occurred as they orchestrated this rescue in time to save her life is remarkable,” says nominator Gail Stern. “We commend their skill, teamwork and speed in responding to a patient’s desperate need for help. The amazing work they do each day is highlighted by moments like these.”

## Next Steps

Nominate a Partner of the Month.

Congratulate these Proud Partners Award recipients.

### **Robert Conde, Paramedic, and Patrick Lento, EMT, West End Community Ambulance Association**

Conde and Lento responded to a 911 call for a dog bite. When they arrived, a dog came rushing out of the home’s front door dragging a young boy by his arm. The boy’s sibling ran out of the house with a handgun ready to shoot the dog. Lento got him to put the gun down. Conde then jumped on the back of the dog until it released its grip on the boy. Together, they treated and transported the boy to LVH–Pocono.

### **Noelle Dreisbach, Christa Carey and Alexandra Kalinich, Behavioral Health Services, LVH–Schuylkill**

A student receiving behavioral health treatment wanted to attend her high school graduation ceremony but wasn’t well enough to leave the hospital. This team enlisted her peers to make cards, posters and decorations to adorn her room. They bought her a new outfit and had a strawberry shortcake made. On graduation day, her adoptive mom joined via Zoom and her high school principal presented her with her diploma and tassel in person. Staff cheered, applauded and gave her a sense of hope and optimism on this special day.

### **Julia Grube, Tina Weikel, BSN, Kevin Whalen, Terri Cuth and Kira Johnson, RN, Patient Access Center, LVHN–Mack Boulevard**

The Patient Access Center team received a call from a distraught woman. She was expressing disturbed and confused thoughts. Although she was not an LVHN patient, the caller revealed she did see a psychiatrist. Working together, the team assessed the patient’s mental status over the phone. When the patient began describing violent images, they immediately called 911. They continued to talk to the patient over the phone until police arrived.

**Kadera Ferguson, CRNP, Heaven Martin, PA-C, Shannon Kline and Bridget Ward, LVPG–Schuylkill**

During an appointment, a patient suddenly became unresponsive. The team immediately started CPR and attached AED pads. These clinicians took charge of the situation in a professional, prompt and calm manner until EMS arrived and the patient had a pulse.

**Yanira Otera, Guest Services, LVH–17<sup>th</sup> Street**

One morning, Otera reported a male who appeared to be sleeping on a bench outside the main entrance. The Rapid Response Team discovered the patient was unresponsive because he had overdosed. He was taken to the ED, revived and released later that day. Otera’s call for the welfare check and her continued assistance after the team arrived helped save this young man's life.

**Jeanette Moyer, Pharmacy, LVH–Cedar Crest**

While at a grocery store, Moyer encountered an employee on the floor experiencing severe chest pain. Moyer rushed to assist, retrieving the AED and providing guidance. Moyer talked to the patient to keep him calm, explaining that he would be transferred to LVHN. When EMS arrived, she provided them with information about the patient. The grocery store workers expressed their appreciation for Moyer’s quick action, knowledge and help.

**Lisa Petruzzi, Social Services, LVH–Hazleton**

During a weekend shift, Petruzzi was consulted on a case. The patient, who was brought to the ED, was living in a condemned home. Problems with family members led to an unsafe living environment. Petruzzi worked diligently with the ED and the Area Agency on Aging to get the full history of the patient’s living situation. As a result of Petruzzi’s diligence and compassion, the patient remained at LVH–Hazleton until a safe discharge was ensured.

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# Check Out My Total Health's Wellness Calendar

During National Wellness Month, My Total Health makes it easy for you to live a healthy and balanced life.

LVHN Insider

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

Did you know August is National Wellness Month? Make the most of the remaining days of August by utilizing My Total Health's wellness calendar to incorporate new wellness tools and habits into your routine. The calendar highlights resources available to you through the [My Total Health portal](#) as well as other events and activities that can help you live a healthy and balanced life.

[Download the calendar](#) to view this month's wellness tips. The calendar also is available under the 'Resources' tab of your health portal at [mth.lvh.com](http://mth.lvh.com).

## **Connect with your health coach**

Your health coach is ready to help you reach your wellness goals. Sign up for a coaching appointment at [mth.lvh.com](http://mth.lvh.com).

## **Join the My Total Health channel**

Join the [My Total Health channel](#) on LVHN Insider so you never miss a post about wellness offerings at LVHN.

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## Welcome New Colleagues Who Attended Connections Aug. 9

We have 129 new colleagues in the LVHN family.

LVHN Insider

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

Abi-samira	Pascal	RN Phys Prac
Adam	Lisa	Risk Manager
Appiah	Daniel	Central Svc Tech
Appleton-Suarez	Karolynn	Medical Assistant Phys Prac
Aronchick	Jennifer	MD
Batz	Derek	PACS Systems Analyst
Bauer	Gavin	Registered Nurse

Bedics	Scott	Sterile Processing Technician
Bellinger	Shermean	Registration Rep
Besser	Danielle	Medical Assistant Phys Prac
Boddie-Willis	Aisha	RN Phys Prac
Borden	Brianna	Registered Nurse
Bowman	Kendall	MRI Technologist
Breining	Susan	Registered Nurse
brown	jekeya	Admin Partner
Brown	Nicole	Patient Services Rep
Buckingham	Stephenie	Financial Clearance & Apps Specialist
Callagy	Michael	Registered Nurse
Callagy	Chelsea	PA
Carter	Dominique	Registered Nurse
Casler	Ashly	Registered Nurse
Chestnut	Sabraya	Scheduling Coord
Craig	Brenna	Registered Nurse
Cruz	Deborah	Member Service Asst
D'Andrea	Alexa	Registered Nurse
Delbo	Kimberly	Nurse Instructor
Diaz	Christina	Admin Partner
Diaz	Yesenia	Registered Nurse
Dimiskovski	Marko	DO
Dombroski	Karola	Registered Nurse
Dominici	Mara	CRNP
Dotter	Christine	Phys Therapy Asst PDM
Dougherty	Madelyn	Registered Nurse
Duggan	Morgan	Certified Athletic Trainer
Elghandour	Sara	Registered Nurse
Everett	Heather	Registered Nurse

Fihlman	Elizabeth	Admin Partner
Franklin	Debbi	Registered Nurse
Frantz	Rachel	Radiation Therapist I
Gibson	Sarah	Registered Nurse
Giorgi	Victoria	OP Mental Health Prof
Giorgi	Victoria	Case Mgr Psych PDM
Gross	Carole	Rehab Clin Spec
Ha	My Dung	DO
Haas-Henion	Elizabeth	Registered Nurse
Haines	Mary	Scheduling Coord
Harwi	Lisa	RN Phys Prac
Hassan	Sabrina	RN Phys Prac
Haydt	Katlyn	Registered Nurse
Hitchings	Susan	Registered Nurse
Hughes	Arianne	Patient Services Rep
Illes	Megan	Exer Phys Per Diem
Johnson	Julia	Reg Spec
Johnson-Milligan	Yvonne	Admin Partner
Kardos	Neveda	Registered Nurse
Lubin	Kamisha	Registered Nurse
Lucas	Tayler	Registered Nurse
Lucas	Kaitlyn	Registered Nurse
Magboo	Roselle	Registered Nurse - OR
Mailler	Jasmine	Registered Nurse
Mais	Brian	Customer Supp Analyst
Mann	Jessie	RN WKND Night
Mannicci	Debra	Financial & Operational Support Specialist
McGowan	Julie	Registered Nurse
Megna	Mary	Scheduling Coord

Merced	Xiomara	Admin Partner
Mercurio	Katheryn	Registered Nurse
Molina	Arysa	Case Manager Psych
Monk	Stephanie	Registered Nurse
Moore	Stacy	Phlebotomist
Muniz	Hailey	Registered Nurse
Naugle	Coy	Coord Pt Transport
Neagu	Gabriel	Surgical Technician
Nelson	Jacqueline	CRNP
Notis	Evie	PGY II
Ocasio	Erika	Medical Assistant
O'Grady	Amber	Front Desk Specialist
Oroxom	Ema	Reg Spec
Orta	Stephanie	Registered Nurse
Ortiz	Crystal	Scheduling Coord
Palko	Jennifer	EMT
Perez	Joseph	MD
Pink	Marisa	Inpatient Care Manager - MSW
Polinsky	Alli	Registered Nurse
Quintero Casanova	Celieangelys	Certified Athletic Trainer
Rasmussen	Melissa	Director Clin Svcs
Reppert	Shayna	Patient Transporter
Rex	Jessica	Scheduling Coord
Reyes	Gissell	Medical Assistant Phys Prac
Rhodes-Williams	Grace	Security Officer
Ritchey	Brittney	Registered Nurse
Ritter	Miranda	Patient Services Rep
Roberts	Rebecca	Registered Nurse
Rodier	Alexandra	Registered Nurse

Rohrbach	Carissa	Registered Nurse
Rosario Rivera	Stephanie	Registered Nurse
Rosas	Ivonne	Registered Nurse
Roshdy	Mazden	MD
Sanjurjo	Jasmine	CT Tech
Sao	Tommy	Registered Nurse
Sarwar	Neelam	MD
Saunders	Rupert	Scheduling Coord
Schwenk	Amber	Registered Nurse
Scott	Kelly	Admin Partner
Sethi	Maninder	MD
Silfies	Courtney	Reg Spec
Syage	Nicole	Registered Nurse
Tamandl	Jessica	Insurance Coord
Thomas	Maya	CNA
Valdez	Mayra	Practice Director
Valenza	Patricia	Pharmacy Technician
Vallorosi	Jessica	Certified Athletic Trainer
Valverde	Jonattan	Medical Assistant Phys Prac
Vargas	Sherri	Medical Assistant
Varilek	Christine	Patient Services Rep
Vasquez	Gladys	Medical Assistant Phys Prac
Villafane	Berta	Mammo Tech
Villafuerte	Zenia	Physical Therapist HC
Villar	Jonabel	Scheduling Coord
Wallace	Sean	MD
Webb	Alycia	Phys Therapy Asst PDM
Whelchel	Tracy	Medical Secretary
Wiesner	Stephanie	Patient Services Rep



Wilcox	Meghan	MRI Technologist
Wilkinson	Kali	Registered Nurse
WRIGHT	REBECCA	Registered Nurse
Wurst	Maggie	Strategic Communications Spec
Zaharick	Caroline	Registered Nurse



## Changes Made at Café at LVH–Cedar Crest

Morrison Healthcare is introducing these changes to make your café experience more convenient.

LVHN Insider

Friday, August 13, 2021

Recently, LVHN colleagues participated in a survey administered by Morrison Healthcare, our food, nutrition and hospitality services provider, which aimed to find out how we could better serve LVHN patients, colleagues and visitors.

Check out how your feedback will make your next visit to the café at LVH–Cedar Crest even more convenient:

- 24/7 access to the café so you can get a meal or snack at a time most convenient for you, with badge access available from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. on weekdays and 9 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. on weekends
- Self-checkout using your LVHN badge or a credit card to pay
  - Watch this [video](#) to learn how

- More variety of “heat and eat” meals for when you need a quick, satisfying meal on the go

The Boar’s Head Café, located at the top of the steps near the Cancer Center, will be closed the remainder of this week.

Badge access is also available in the café at LVH–Muhlenberg.

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## Get \$5 Tickets to Valley Preferred Cycling Center

Colleagues can get discounted tickets for the remainder of the 2021 season.



Donna Stout

Friday, August 13, 2021

The LVHN Recreation Committee has arranged for discounted tickets for the remainder of the 2021 season at the Valley Preferred Cycling Center.

Just show your LVHN ID Badge at the ticket booth and get a general admission ticket for only \$5 (normally \$9).

To view the upcoming schedule, visit [www.thevelodrome.com](http://www.thevelodrome.com)

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### DOING MY PART

## Dynamic Duo's Pillows Soften Post-Transplant Road

Transplant coordinator, mom provide more than 660 kidney- and pancreas-shaped cushions since 2016

By Joe Nixon



Alice Schnell is a retired seamstress, but what she's been sewing for Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) transplant patients and living donors for the past five years goes beyond ordinary material and thread.

At 84, she works with her daughter, LVHN clinical post-transplant coordinator Sue Eckhart, to provide special kidney- and pancreas-shaped pillows to transplant patients to use after surgery. Eckhart hatched the idea, got buy-in from the transplant program, and enlisted Schnell's help.

The transplant program pays for pillow supplies. Eckhart designed the pillows and buys what's needed and Schnell provides the sewing time and talent, free of charge.

“I thought, gee that’s an honor,” Schnell says of her reaction when Eckhart asked her to help start the special sewing mission. “It was something I wanted to do.”

## How it all started



Kidney and pancreas-shaped pillows

Eckhart has been a nurse with LVHN for 36 years, the first 26 as a medical-surgical nurse. After surgery, nurses typically give a patient a folded blanket, taped so it stays folded, to patients to hold over their incision to support it when they need to move, take deep breaths or cough. The technique is called splinting.

“Over the years I knew that when people had open heart surgery, they got a heart pillow,” Eckhart says. “When my mom had lung cancer surgery years ago, she got a teddy bear.” When Eckhart joined the transplant program 10 years ago, she thought – why not a kidney pillow? That was followed, of

course, by the pancreas pillow. Patients who get both a kidney and pancreas transplant get two pillows.

In addition to comfort, the pillows can act as a teaching tool. The kidney pillow comes with fabric attachments representing a vein, artery and ureter.

## **Grateful patients**

Eckhart says some patients return for follow-up visits with their pillows in hand. “They are really thankful for them,” she says. “Some tell me to thank my mom. There really is a personal connection there.” Some of the transplant patients have even had transplant doctors and nurses sign their pillows.

The Eckhart-Schnell pillow team aims to keep producing pillows for the foreseeable future. It’s a transplant program tradition that brings comfort and a smile.

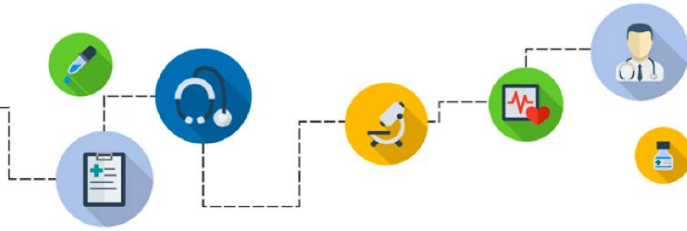
“This gesture really exemplifies the compassion of the special people who make our transplant program such a success,” says Michael Moritz, MD, LVPG Transplant Surgery, who leads LVHN’s transplant team. “Sue and Alice’s pillows may be small gestures to some, but they leave a big impression.”

“It gives me a good feeling to know that maybe these pillows will make somebody feel a little better,” says Schnell.

Find out more about LVHN’s transplant program at [LVHN.org/transplant](https://www.lvhn.org/transplant).

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research  
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2021



## LVHN Research Scholars Representing 21 Schools Complete Virtual Program

Read about the experiences of 30 research scholars from senior research scholar Collin Duff.

Collin Duff

Thursday, August 12, 2021

This summer, 30 students representing 21 undergraduate colleges and universities virtually participated in the 2021 LVHN Research Scholar Program, sponsored by LVHN's Department of Education and supported in part by The Health Care Trust of Anne Constance and Carl Robert Anderson. More than 30 LVHN colleagues across 12 different departments mentored scholars on high-priority research and quality improvement projects. To culminate the program, research scholars presented virtual posters of their work to a panel of LVHN colleagues on July 30. The posters will be published on the LVHN Scholarly Works webpage to further establish LVHN as a prestigious research institution.

The Research Scholar experience consists of far more than just project work. Program coordinator Jeanne Reilly provided the scholars with opportunities to learn research methods from LVHN colleagues and to discuss career pathways with LVHN physicians through a series of eight professional development sessions. Additionally, the undergraduate senior scholars hosted weekly team-building sessions so the scholars could connect socially within a virtual setting. Congratulations to all of our scholars on a successful summer!

For more information on LVHN's Research Scholar Program, visit [LVHN.org/researchscholar](https://www.lvhn.org/researchscholar).

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