

Joan Farrell

From: LVHN Insider <no-reply@insider.lvhn.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 3:46 PM
To: Joan Farrell
Subject: COVID-19 Vaccination Deadline, COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics, Cancer Program's New Name and More

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



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



Reminder: COVID-19 Vaccination Deadline for First Shot is Oct. 1

Colleagues must be fully vaccinated by Nov. 12.

[Read more →](#)

LVHN COVID-19 Clinics Here to Serve You

First COVID vaccinations, third shots for immunocompromised and Pfizer booster all available.

[Read more →](#)



Lehigh Valley Health Network's Cancer Program Announces New Name

Lehigh Valley Cancer Institute is now Lehigh Valley Topper Cancer Institute.

[Read more →](#)



Pfizer COVID-19 Booster Approved for Seniors, At-Risk Workers and More

LVHN will administer booster shots beginning on Monday, Sept. 27.

[Read more →](#)



Lehigh Valley Business Journal Forty Under 40 Recognizes LVHN Professionals

Be #LVHNProud of these outstanding young professionals.

[Read more →](#)



Four LVHN Hospitals Earn National Recognition for Stroke Care

We earned the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Quality Achievement Award.

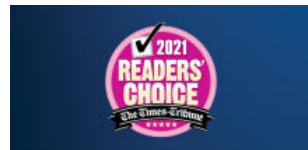
[Read more →](#)



Coordinated Health Scranton Orthopedics Voted the Best for 10 Years in a Row

Scranton Times readers share their opinions.

[Read more →](#)



Gift of Life transplant coordinator explains organ donation process

Michael Moritz, MD, Chief of Transplant Services at Lehigh Valley Health Network speaks about organ donation.

[Read more →](#)



Colleagues' Cultural Identity Strengthens Connection with Patients

Three colleagues from interpreter services share how their cultural identity contributes to their work.

[Read more →](#)



Congratulate These DAISY Award Recipients

These nurses go above and beyond for patients.

[Read more →](#)



Nichole Persing is DAISY Nurse Leader Award Recipient

Learn why the Progressive Coronary Care Unit Director is an innovative leader. Read her story.

[Read more →](#)



Colleague's Local Farm Blooms Into New Passion

Michelle Wagner's new farm sprouts hope.

[Read more →](#)



Patt Lecture: The Ins and Outs of CAR T Cells

Craig Sauter, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, will speak about CAR T cells.

[Read more →](#)



Go to LVHN Colleague Flu Shot Clinic for Your Flu Shot

Colleague flu shot clinics will begin Oct. 1 and continue until Nov. 12.

[Read more →](#)



Open Enrollment: Oct. 11-29, 2021

It's time to choose the benefits that are best for you and your dependents.

[Read more →](#)





Reminder: COVID-19 Vaccination Deadline for First Shot is Oct. 1

Colleagues must be fully vaccinated by Nov. 12.

LVHN Insider

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

This message is from Michael Rossi, MD, MBA, Executive Vice President and Chief Clinical Officer; Robert X. Murphy Jr., MD, MS, Executive Vice President and Chief Physician Executive; Tom Marchozzi, MBA, CPA, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; John Pierro, MBA, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer; and Lynn Turner, MBA, Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer.

COVID-19 Vaccination Deadline Reminder: Oct. 1 for First Shot

Colleagues must receive the first shot by Oct. 1 and be fully vaccinated by Nov. 12.

LVHN's COVID-19 vaccination deadline was modified in mid-September to allow adequate time for employee health services and legal services to review exemption requests. Colleagues who do not have an approved medical, religious or temporary medical exemption must be vaccinated with one of the three COVID-19 vaccines currently available.

Here are dates to keep in mind if you are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated:

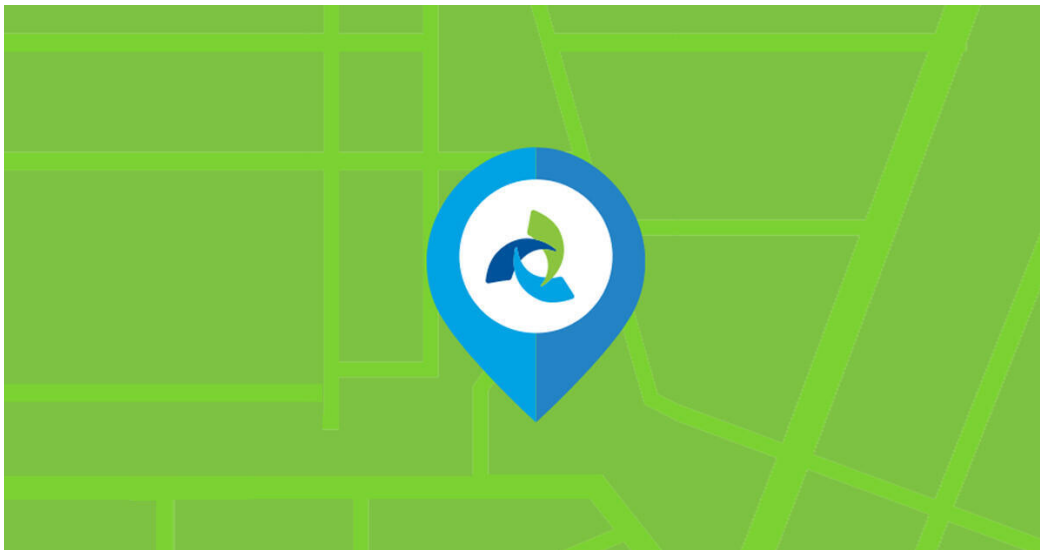
- **Friday, Oct. 1,** is the deadline to receive your first two-dose COVID-19 vaccination (Moderna or Pfizer) or single-dose vaccination (Johnson & Johnson). If a colleague does not receive their first dose of Moderna or Pfizer, or single dose of Johnson & Johnson by Oct. 1, the colleague will be issued a final warning by their supervisor.
- **Friday, Nov. 12,** is the deadline to complete the vaccine series. If a colleague does not receive the second dose of Moderna or Pfizer, or a single dose of Johnson & Johnson by Nov. 12, 2021, the colleague will be deemed to have resigned and will not be eligible to appeal the decision through the Fair Treatment Process Policy.

Four easy ways to get vaccinated

1. Schedule an appointment at [LVHN.org/appointments](https://lvhn.org/appointments).
2. Schedule an appointment on MyLVHN.
3. Call the COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline just for colleagues at 484-750-4951.
4. Walk in at any of these LVHN vaccine clinics; no appointment is needed, but please review the days and hours of operation by following the links:
 - [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](#)

Thank you for doing your part

As individuals who have chosen health care for our careers, we must do everything possible to protect our patients, colleagues and communities from COVID-19. Thank you for doing your part, getting vaccinated and creating “Better Days Ahead.”



LVHN COVID-19 Clinics Here to Serve You

First COVID vaccinations, third shots for immunocompromised and Pfizer booster all available.

LVHN Insider

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

The COVID-19 vaccine landscape has changed with the addition of third shots for immunocompromised people and Pfizer booster shots for Pfizer vaccine recipients, but one thing is constant – Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) vaccine clinics remain ready to serve you.

Available COVID vaccines

At LVHN COVID-19 vaccine clinics, you'll fall into one of three categories when scheduling a vaccine appointment or simply walking in.

Unvaccinated. We continue to urge members of the general public who aren't vaccinated to make an appointment or drop by one of our clinics. Unvaccinated LVHN colleagues who don't have an approved medical, religious or temporary medical exemption are reminded they must receive their first COVID-19 vaccine shot by Oct. 1 and be fully vaccinated by Nov. 12.

Just over half of the U.S. population is fully vaccinated against COVID-19, so there's a long way to go to defeat this pandemic.

Pfizer booster. A Pfizer booster is available *only* to those who had the original Pfizer two-shot series at least six months ago and who fall into certain populations, including those 65 and older. Visit [LVHN.org/thirdshot](https://www.lvhn.org/thirdshot) for all the details. People eligible for the Pfizer booster include those in occupations, such as health care, where there is frequent institutional or occupational exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19 that puts them at high risk for serious complications of COVID-19.

Immunocompromised. If you have a moderately or severely compromised immune system, you can get a third shot of either the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine at least 28 days after the second shot of the two-shot vaccine series. It's recommended to get the same brand for the third shot as for the two-shot series. Data shows people with moderately to severely compromised immune systems do not always build the same level of immunity after vaccination against COVID-19, compared to people who are not immunocompromised.

How to schedule your Pfizer booster

Scheduling a Pfizer booster is encouraged can be completed through MyLVHN, our patient portal, at [MyLVHN.org](https://www.lvhn.org) or the MyLVHN mobile app, or by calling the COVID-19 hotline at 833-584-6283 (833-LVHN-CVD). The hotline is open Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Walk-ins also are accepted.

Follow these steps in MyLVHN to schedule a Pfizer booster:

- Click on Menu, then COVID-19 Vaccine 3rd Dose Scheduling
- Select COVID-19 Vaccine 3rd Dose Booster
- You will be presented with questions and list of conditions pertaining to third shots for immunocompromised people. Answer no, then select continue.
- You will be presented with questions and conditions related to the Pfizer booster. If you qualify, select yes, then continue.

COVID-19 vaccine clinic locations and hours (as of Sept. 29, 2021)

[Northampton Crossings](#)

3768 Easton Nazareth Highway

Easton, PA 18045

Phone - [833-584-6283](tel:833-584-6283)

Open: Tuesday and Friday, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

[Pocono](#)

Lehigh Valley Hospital–Pocono

206 E Brown Street

East Stroudsburg, PA 18301-3006

Phone - [833-584-6283](tel:833-584-6283)

Open: Monday (noon – 4 p.m.), Tuesday (9 a.m. – 1 p.m.), Wednesday (noon to 4 p.m.), Thursday (3-7 p.m.)

[Hazleton](#)

Lehigh Valley Hospital–Hazleton

700 E Broad Street

Hazleton, PA 18201-6835

Phone - [833-584-6283](tel:833-584-6283)

Open: Monday and Wednesday (noon – 4 p.m.)

[Schuylkill](#)

Lehigh Valley Hospital–Schuylkill E. Norwegian Street

700 E. Norwegian St.

Wall Auditorium, third floor main lobby

Take Parking Garage elevator to 3H (3 hospital)

Pottsville, PA 17901

Phone - [833-584-6283](tel:833-584-6283)

Open: Wednesday (8 a.m. – noon)

[MacArthur Road](#)

2633 MacArthur Rd.

Whitehall, PA 18052

Phone - [833-584-6283](tel:833-584-6283)

Open: Monday, Wednesday and Friday (8 a.m. – 6 p.m.)

Lehigh Valley Health Network's Cancer Program Announces New Name

Taking Cancer Care to the Next Level in Our Community

By **Maggie Wurst**

September 24, 2021



Joe and Maureen Topper (left) joined Suresh Nair, MD, Physician in Chief, Lehigh Valley Topper Cancer Institute, and Brian Nester, DO, MBA, President and Chief Executive Officer, LVHN, in speaking at the official announcement event on Friday, Sept. 24.

Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) is honored to announce that Lehigh Valley Cancer Institute is now [Lehigh Valley Topper Cancer Institute](#).

“The field of oncology is rapidly evolving, and at LVHN, we are dedicated to providing our patients the highest-level care and advanced treatments within their community,” says [Brian Nester, DO, MBA](#), President and Chief Executive Officer, LVHN. “In support of this mission, we have received an amazing gift from Joe and Maureen Topper, which will elevate our efforts even higher.”

The Toppers’ gift will be used to bring the most innovative and lifesaving [clinical trials](#) to this region.

It also will complement network investments in advanced cancer treatments and technologies, including stem cell transplantation and cellular therapies. In

addition, the gift will serve as a permanent source of funding for Lehigh Valley Topper Cancer Institute to attract, recruit and retain the best and brightest physicians, nurses and staff.

“I am so grateful for the opportunity Joe and Maureen Topper are providing us to bring the latest, individualized therapies to patients. It is so important for our patients to have access to advanced care close to home, and their gift will make that more possible than ever before,” says [Suresh Nair, MD](#), Physician in Chief, Lehigh Valley Topper Cancer Institute. “We are all incredibly honored and excited to be part of Lehigh Valley Topper Cancer Institute. We look forward to bringing the next level of cancer care to the people of the Lehigh Valley and beyond.”

Lehigh Valley Topper Cancer Institute will continue as one of only three cancer centers in the country participating in the [Memorial Sloan Kettering \(MSK\) Cancer Alliance](#), which provides patients with additional lifesaving care options close to home.



Pfizer COVID-19 Booster Approved for Seniors, At-Risk Workers and More

LVHN will administer booster shots beginning on Monday, Sept. 27.

LVHN Insider

Friday, September 24, 2021

Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) will begin administering a booster shot of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine on Monday, Sept. 27, to population groups approved this week by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The Pfizer booster is not required for LVHN colleagues at this time, but colleagues are required to be [immunized](#) against COVID-19 or to have received an exemption.

The FDA granted Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer booster on Wednesday (Sept. 22) and the CDC gave its approval late Thursday (Sept. 23).

Based on the FDA and CDC approvals, the Pfizer booster can be given at least six months after completion of the initial Pfizer two-shot series for people:

- Age 65 and older
- In long-term care facilities
- Age 50-64 with underlying medical conditions that increase their risk for COVID infection
- Age 18-64 with underlying medical conditions. The decision to receive a booster should be based upon individual circumstances that impact their overall risk of infection.
- Age 18-64 whose frequent institutional or occupational exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19 puts them at high risk for serious complications of COVID-19. This group includes health care workers, teachers and day care staff, grocery workers and those in homeless shelters or prisons.

Underlying medical conditions that increase the risk of severe COVID infection include:

- Cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD
- Down Syndrome
- Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant or from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune

deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, or use of other immune weakening medicines

- Obesity (body mass index of 30 kg/m² or higher but less than 40 kg/m²)
- Severe obesity (BMI equal to or greater than 40 kg/m²)
- Pregnancy
- Sickle cell disease
- Smoking
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus

Scheduling a booster is encouraged and can be completed through MyLVHN, our patient portal, at [MyLVHN.org](https://www.mylvhn.org), or by calling the COVID-19 hotline at 833-584-6283 (833-LVHN-CVD). The hotline is open Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. COVID-19 vaccinations will continue to be offered at LVHN's vaccination [clinic locations](#) in the region, including in Whitehall and Palmer townships. Walk-ins also are accepted.

The other currently authorized COVID vaccines from Moderna and Johnson & Johnson have not yet received approval for boosters. The CDC and FDA will be evaluating data to support boosters for these vaccines in the coming weeks.

For information on vaccines and clinics, visit [LVHN.org/vaccines](https://www.lvhn.org/vaccines). Information on third vaccine shots can be found at [LVHN.org/thirdshot](https://www.lvhn.org/thirdshot).

COVID-19 vaccines do not prevent all infections. However, they remain remarkably effective at reducing the risk of infection and, most importantly, preventing serious illness and death from COVID-19.

LVHN encourages all eligible people who have not had any COVID-19 vaccinations to get their shots as soon as possible to help protect themselves, their families and their community and help better control the pandemic.



Lehigh Valley Business Journal Forty Under 40 Recognizes LVHN Professionals

Be #LVHNProud of these outstanding young professionals.

LVHN Insider

Friday, September 24, 2021

Lehigh Valley Business and sponsors celebrate 40 of the Greater Lehigh Valley's most accomplished young businessmen and women who have been making headlines in their field and who share a commitment to business growth, professional excellence and to the community. The event was held Wednesday, Sept. 8.

LVHN is proud to celebrate this year's winners:

- Ashley Bubbenmoyer, Project Manager, Lehigh Valley Physician Group
- Stacey Hogan, Director, Real Estate, Lehigh Valley Health Network
- Ryan Miguel, Manager, IT Infrastructure and Development, Populytics

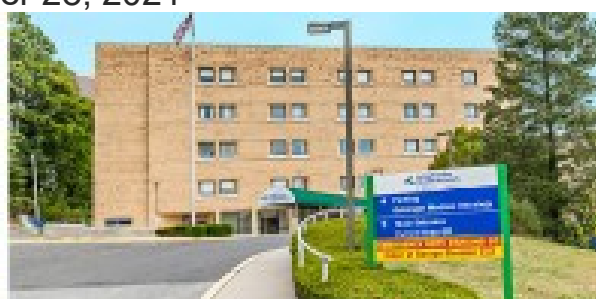
Watch Brian A. Nester, DO, MBA, LVHN President and CEO, recognize this year's winners:

<https://youtu.be/pnW8I7u21wg>

Four Lehigh Valley Health Network Hospitals Earn National Recognition for Stroke Improvement Efforts

American Heart Association honors commitment to quality care

By **Joe Nixon**
September 28, 2021



Four Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) hospitals have been recognized by the American Heart Association's (AHA) Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Quality Achievement Award program for their commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines.

[Lehigh Valley Hospital-Schuylkill](#), [Lehigh Valley Hospital-Hazleton](#), [Lehigh Valley Hospital-Cedar Crest](#) and [Lehigh Valley Hospital-Pocono](#) were honored by the AHA for their performance in 2020.

Stroke is the No. 5 cause of death and a leading cause of adult disability in the U.S. On average, someone in the U.S. suffers a stroke every 40 seconds, and nearly 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year. Early

stroke detection and treatment are key to improving survival, minimizing disability and speeding recovery times.

[Opens in new tab](#)[Get With The Guidelines-Stroke](#) was developed to assist health care professionals to provide the most up-to-date, research-based guidelines for treating stroke patients.

“We’re honored to be recognized by the American Heart Association for helping our patients have the best possible chance of survival after a stroke,” said Steven Lewis, MD, Chief, Division of Neurology for LVHN. “Get With The Guidelines-Stroke makes it easier for our teams to put proven knowledge and guidelines to work on a daily basis to improve outcomes.”

Stroke care success

Lehigh Valley Hospital–Muhlenberg, Lehigh Valley Hospital–Hazleton, Lehigh Valley Hospital–Schuylkill and Lehigh Valley Hospital–Pocono are all certified Primary Stroke Centers. A Primary Stroke Center is a hospital that has developed special procedures to rapidly diagnose and treat a stroke emergency.

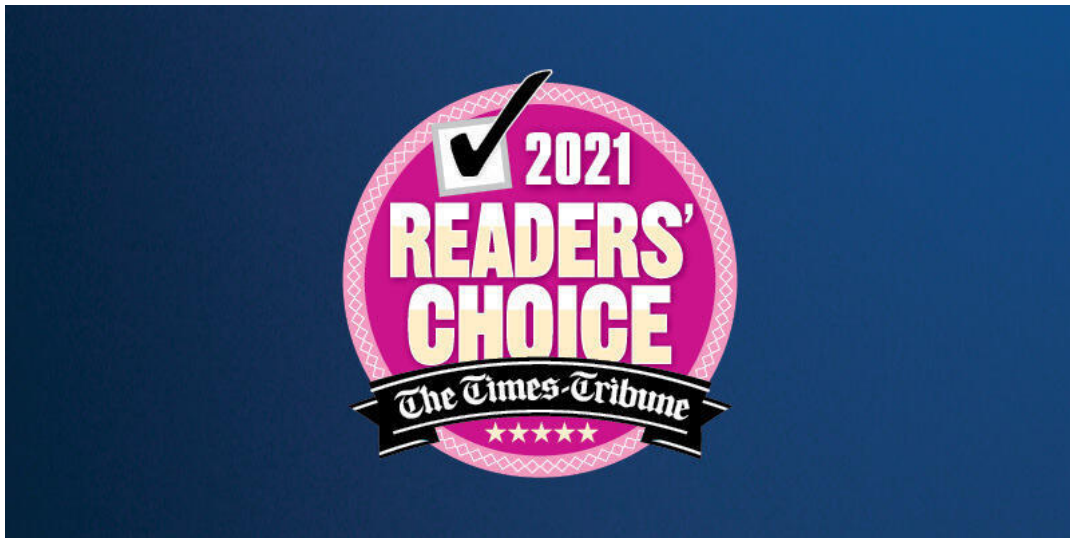
[Lehigh Valley Hospital–Cedar Crest](#) has advanced certification as a Comprehensive Stroke Center by The Joint Commission and American Heart Association/American Stroke Association. This means we offer the highest standard of care for stroke and it recognizes our expert staff and their advanced training in treating patients with complex strokes.

Program details

Each year program participants apply for the award recognition by demonstrating how their organization has committed to providing quality care for stroke patients. In addition to following treatment guidelines, participants also provide education to patients to help them manage their health and rehabilitation once at home.

“We are pleased to recognize these LVHN hospitals for their commitment to stroke care,” said Lee H. Schwamm, MD, national chairperson of the Quality Oversight Committee and Executive Vice Chair of Neurology, Director of Acute Stroke Services, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass. “Research has shown that hospitals adhering to clinical measures through the

Get With The Guidelines quality improvement initiative can often see fewer readmissions and lower mortality rates.”



Coordinated Health Scranton Orthopedics Voted the Best for 10 Years in a Row

Scranton Times readers share their opinions.

LVHN Insider

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Coordinated Health Scranton Orthopedics has been a staple in the Scranton community for many years, providing the orthopedic care the community expects and deserves. The community continues to recognize the outstanding care by voting Coordinated Health Scranton Orthopedics the best in the Scranton Times Readers' Choice Awards.

For the 10th year in a row, Coordinated Health Scranton Orthopedics came in first place for:

- Best Orthopedic Services
- Best Physical Rehab Center

Thank you for making us the best!



Gift of Life transplant coordinator explains organ donation process

Michael Moritz, MD, Chief of Transplant Services at Lehigh Valley Health Network speaks about organ donation.

blob:<https://6abc.com/9f0c444f-1f37-48db-ab5b-f2603700c180>



Colleagues' Cultural Identity Strengthens Connection with Patients

Three colleagues from interpreter services share how their cultural identity contributes to their work.

Friday, September 24, 2021

According to U.S. Census reports, nearly 92,000 individuals in the communities served by LVHN identify as Hispanic/Latino/a/x. As of 2019, nearly 10% of LVHN colleagues identify as Hispanic/Latino/a/x.

What started as a [week-long celebration of Hispanic heritage in 1968 has now evolved into to a month-long designation called Hispanic Heritage Month](#), which we observe from Sept. 15-Oct. 15. Hispanic Heritage Month is recognized by organizations across the U.S. to [celebrate Americans with cultural backgrounds from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America](#).

Read the stories of three colleagues from interpreter services who share how their cultural identity contributes to their work at LVHN.

Kendalyn Aldana, Trained Medical Interpreter, LVH-17th Street

I am a Trained Medical Interpreter, wife and mom of two boys. I'm Guatemalan Mexican American and I was born in Anaheim, California. I started working for Lehigh Valley Hospital when I was 21 years old as a certified medical assistant. Working at LVHN, I noticed there was a great need for Spanish interpreters. Every time an interpreter came through the door to assist a patient, it was like a superhero coming to their rescue. I admired seeing their dedication to facilitating communication between a provider and patient. The patient's eyes would glimmer

with joy when I told them that a live interpreter would assist them. The need for interpreters was so high, in fact, that the director of the practice asked me if I would consider completing the Bridging the Gap medical interpreter training program to assist patients when an interpreter was not available. Of course, I said, “Yes, absolutely!” I was so eager to work as a cross-trained medical interpreter. A year later, I was notified that a position opened in interpreter services and I got the job! I feel appreciated by patients who are very thankful that I was there to assist. Their gratitude and thankfulness are the most rewarding parts of my job today. Eight years later, I am still here loving and enjoying what I do.

I am proud of my heritage and I’m proud to use my voice to help others in my community. I completely identify as a Latina. When I was 9 years old, we moved to a small town in Pennsylvania. No one spoke Spanish, and we were practically the only Hispanics in town. I became my parent’s interpreter and translator, and I really enjoyed helping my parents and being able to contribute at a young age. Never in a million years would I have imagined myself helping others and being rewarded by that same feeling I had when I was a little girl. Because of my roots and my heritage, I strive to be culturally competent. I feel my personal and work experiences allow me to see why there is a great need for live interpreters. This is the reason I am successful in my field and passionate to help our patients.

Xochil Mayte Bridges, Trained Medical Interpreter, LVH–17th Street

Hola! My name is Xochil Mayte Bridges. I was born and raised in Cancun, Mexico. I have two children. My daughter Belén is 18 years old and will attend West Chester University this fall, and my 16-year-old son Noé will be a junior at Emmaus High School. In my country, I have a degree in computer science and business administration. I came to Pennsylvania after I married my husband 22 years ago. I did not speak any English, but I was determined to grow and learn. With the support of my family, I took English as a second language classes at Northampton Community College and then studied at Lehigh Carbon Community College to earn my certified nursing assistant (CNA) certificate and an associate’s degree in health sciences. I worked as a CNA for several years, and I used my bilingual skills often in my role. In 2011, I became a medical interpreter through the Bridging the Gap training program. I volunteered as an interpreter throughout the community and at LVHN for two years. In 2014, I was hired to work for the interpreter services department at LVHN. In this role, I provide in-person, video and telephonic interpreting.

I know what it’s like to have a medical emergency or concerns about a child’s health but not be able to express myself or understand what medical professionals are saying. I’ve experienced the fear and sometimes embarrassment of asking for help, and the challenges of navigating a different culture. These experiences and my Mexican cultural heritage provide me deep understanding of individuals with limited English proficiency and make me passionate about helping people. I approach my work at LVHN with compassion, respect and dignity. I feel very fortunate to work together with professionals from every part of our health network to make a difference in people’s lives.

Joumana De Santiago, Manager, Interpreter Services, LVHN

I am proud to serve as the Manager of Interpreter Services at Lehigh Valley Health Network. I've worked for LVHN for 20 years. In my role, I create innovative and effective solutions for delivering best-in-class language services for LVHN, LVPG and affiliates. I partner with clinical and administrative leaders in driving system-wide strategies and policies for language interpreters and translations to enhance patient experience and outcomes. I also serve as a medical interpreter and instructor for Bridging the Gap, a medical interpreter training program. Prior to joining the interpreter services department, I was a surgical technologist in the ambulatory surgery department at LVH-17th Street. I have an associate degree as a certified surgical technologist, and I am currently completing my bachelor's in health care administration. Raised in the Lehigh Valley, I learned to speak Spanish, Arabic and English at home. I am a member of the Cultural Awareness Leadership Council, and I'm passionate about ensuring everyone has equal access to culturally competent health care. I live in Bethlehem with my husband and three children. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family, writing songs and singing.

I identify as a multi-cultural person. My mom is from Guayaquil, Ecuador, and my dad from Beirut, Lebanon. I was born in Allentown at LVH-17th Street. While my father's culture was always part of who we were, my mother's culture was more dominant in my upbringing. I was taught to speak Spanish from the moment I said my first words. In our home, we only spoke Spanish and Arabic. I did not learn English until I started school. Language was not the only cultural custom that we learned. Religion, food, values and the way our parents raised us shaped our culture. I have been my parent's interpreter since I was able to speak and understand languages. I know firsthand what it is to see your parents struggle to communicate and be understood.

My cultural identity helps reveal my heritage. It helps me identify with others who have similar beliefs and challenges as I do and allows me to have awareness and respect of other cultures around me. In every position I have held at LVHN, I have had the opportunity to contribute a piece of my culture in one form or another. As trained medical interpreters, we bridge gaps in language barriers, educate providers and new colleagues on how to be culturally competent, address health inequalities in diverse and rural communities and find ways to improve access to care in our communities. Cultural identity is an important part of who you are and helps you connect with those who surround you. I am proud to say that I am a Latina who is passionate about serving our patients and making a positive contribution to our community and organization.

Honoring Hispanic culture all year

LVHN is proud to serve the Hispanic/Latino/a/x community every day of the year. Respect and inclusion are woven into each of our core values and performance competencies. By valuing differences and honoring the contributions of our Hispanic/Latino/a/x colleagues and partners, we acknowledge their contributions to providing high-quality care for patients and their role in sustaining a great place to work for all.



Congratulate These DAISY Award Recipients

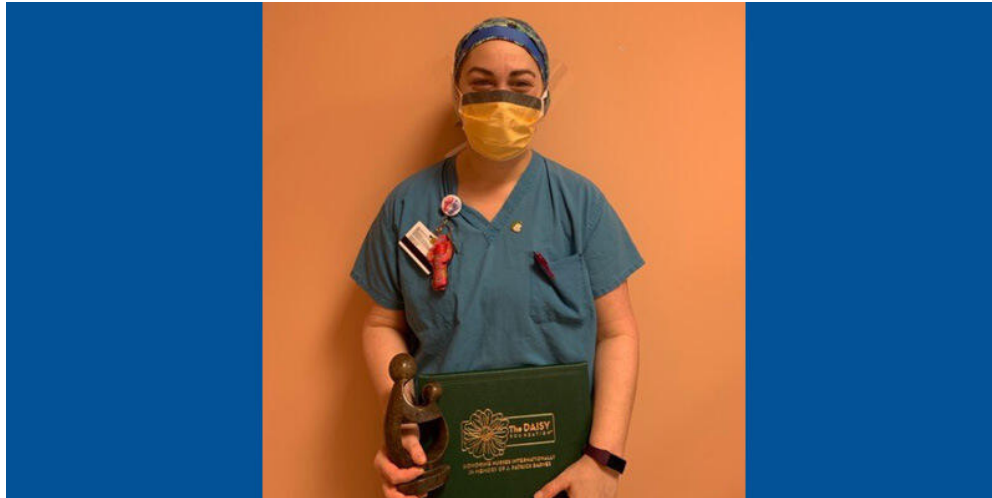
These nurses go above and beyond for patients.

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

The DAISY Award recognizes nursing excellence and honors nurses for providing compassionate and patient-centered care. Elizabeth Sweet, Lindsay Hischak, Valeria Mease, Ashley Newell, Jessica Goodrich, Lauren Bostick, Pauline Ayompe and Hannah Stevens are celebrated by patients and colleagues for going above and beyond to provide exceptional care.

Elizabeth Sweet, RN, August 2020

Labor and Delivery, LVH—Cedar Crest



It takes an extraordinary nurse to do what Elizabeth Sweet, RN, does every day in the labor and delivery unit at LVH—Cedar Crest. Sweet holds the hands of patients through some of the happiest and saddest moments of their lives. For a patient and her husband, Sweet’s kindness provided a beautiful memory amidst tragedy.

This patient had given birth to her first child, a girl named Cadence Elizabeth, at just 23 weeks pregnant. Sweet coached her through the experience, knowing the baby was not alive and the pain the mother was experiencing. As the parents struggled with their loss, Sweet congratulated them for their beautiful baby and respected their time with her. Then, she carefully swaddled the child and took her for a newborn photoshoot. Sweet presented the couple with a photobook that they opened when they returned home. The couple was surprised to see images of their child in multiple outfits and poses.

“How do you do that? How do you create such significant lifelong memories for grieving parents while going about your normal day? People tell me and my husband how strong we are, but Liz, to me, is the strongest. She is someone I will never forget,” says the patient.

Lindsay Hischak, RN, September 2020

Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit, LVH—Cedar Crest



Sometimes what a patient needs is a reassuring voice. That's exactly what Lindsay Hischak, RN, gives to her patients every day on the unit.

When a patient was admitted in need of basilar artery aneurysm repair, the experience could have been stressful. The procedure went smoothly and he was transferred to the neuroscience intensive care unit. During his recovery, the team discovered that this patient had slurred speech and low blood pressure and heart rate. Hischak was there to take care of him.

"I was alone and scared," says the patient's wife. "I was fearful because I couldn't be with my husband until I realized that he was in the best hands. I knew the person caring for him had top touch skills and a calm demeanor."

Hischak managed his vital signs, started him on a drip to raise his blood pressure and performed textbook assessments which uncovered each complication, including the early formation of a hematoma and bleeding at his arterial insertion site. She acted quickly with a quiet reassuring demeanor to provide comfort and build trust that she would take care of him to the best of her ability.

Valeria Mease, RN, October 2020

Observation Unit, LVH—Cedar Crest



Nurses have to be good listeners to effectively treat their patients. Valeria Mease, RN, doesn't just listen to her patients, sometimes she even helps them hear.

The patient had hearing aids, but the batteries had died the night before he came into the hospital. While he was being admitted to the hospital, he struggled to hear and understand instructions. He felt bad for his roommate because of how loudly colleagues were speaking to him so he could hear.

Mease asked him if he had any family who could bring him batteries, but they all lived too far away.

“Val pulled me aside, gave me her debit card and asked me to purchase batteries for his hearing aids without hesitation or worry about the price,” says Mease’s nominator.

She helped him put the batteries in herself, and the patient was overjoyed by her kindness.

Ashley Newell, RN, November 2020

5K, LVH—Cedar Crest



When patients leave the hospital against medical orders (AMA) before they are ready to be discharged, their health and safety are at risk.

Ashley Newell, RN, gave one patient a reason to stay and continue receiving care.

This patient had been hospitalized for 18 days with intense musculoskeletal pain. Newell was the nurse she saw most during her stay.

“At times, my pain was 10/10 — the worst pain of my life. I considered leaving AMA because I couldn't stand the pain,” says this patient. “Not only has she been unbelievably compassionate while training new nursing staff on a busy unit, but Ashley always took the extra step to advocate for me as her patient. Nurses like Ashley are truly selfless.”

Jessica Goodrich, RN, December 2020

5K, LVH—Cedar Crest



Jessica Goodrich, RN, always puts others first. She adapts quickly to new tasks and environments to do what's best for her colleagues and patients. Her selfless character can be demonstrated through her care of a young girl while working the children's emergency department.

A mother came in with her daughter in her arms to the Children's ER. The child was pale and without a pulse. Goodrich immediately took action by retrieving monitors and beginning compressions.

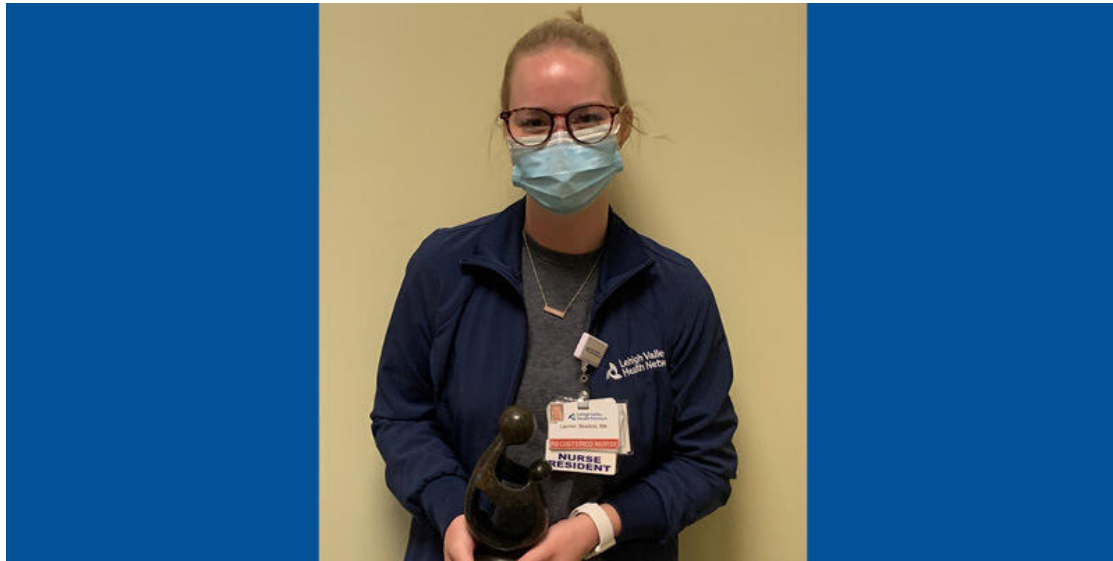
"She seemed to be everywhere at once, never once thinking about herself or what she would prefer to be doing. She only ever thinks about helping her patient and then her colleagues," says her nominator.

She continued to do whatever was needed until the patient was stabilized. After the event, Goodrich suggested specific process improvements to improve patient safety and efficiency. She made recommendations for more effective teamwork and communication in a stressful situation.

"She is selfless, kind, highly intelligent and effective, and makes the hospital and the Children's ER an all-around better place," says the nominator.

Lauren Bostick, RN, January 2021

6KS, LVH—Cedar Crest



Sometimes it takes a nurse to pick up the pieces when everything in a patient's world seems to be falling apart.

When a former patient's belonging went missing, Lauren Bostick, RN, stopped at nothing to track it down.

After he was discharged from the hospital, this patient's son collected his father's belongings only to realize something very important was missing. His father's veteran hat was nowhere to be found.

Bostick discovered that the items had been left in the patient room and a new patient was now using them. Bostick and the patient's son went through each item and discovered that the hat was missing. Ultimately, they learned that the veteran hat had been ripped to pieces.

Bostick did not give up hope. She dug through the trash until she found each piece of the torn hat. She ensured that the pieces were washed and returned them to the patient's son.

"I didn't care if the trash was taken downstairs, I was going to suit up and dig through the hospital trash to find all the pieces of that hat," says Bostick.

"Lauren is a true example of compassion and caring for her patients. I feel proud to work with her," says the nominator.

Pauline Ayompe, RN, February 2021

Float Pool, LVH–Cedar Crest



During the COVID-19 pandemic, LVHN nurses have gone above and beyond, serving as more than caretakers to their patients. Pauline Ayompe, RN, is one of them.

A patient admitted to the hospital with COVID-19 was fearful of what might happen. He experienced Ayompe's compassion firsthand. When he was admitted to LVHN with COVID, the patient was sad about his condition and fearful. On his second day, Ayompe was assigned as his caregiver.

“Pauline intuitively recognized my distress. Through Pauline’s sincere voice, plus her caring and comforting demeanor, I sensed she truly cared for my welfare and survival. Pauline leaned over, gently rubbed my back and invited me to have hope with her,” says the patient.

She cared for him a few times during his stay, always providing comfort and calming his worries. In the last week of his stay, she greeted him with a “get well soon” balloon, celebrating his recovery.

“Pauline gave me hope from day one,” says the patient. “On that day, she was far more than a nurse. She became a counselor, a listening ear, a member of my family, a pastor, and my reason for working toward recovery. Pauline embodies all the qualities of an exceptional nurse.”

Hannah Stevens, RN, March 2021

Trauma Neuro Intensive Care Unit (TNICU), LVH–Cedar Crest



Hannah Stevens, RN, mentored a fellow nurse navigating a new role at LVHN.

This new colleague completed nursing school during the COVID-19 pandemic and did not have prior experience as a student nurse working in the hospital, especially in an ICU. For that reason, the nurse was excited but anxious about being hired to work in the TNICU.

"I met my preceptor, Hannah, on my first day of work," says this new colleague. "From the minute I met her, I felt a huge weight lift off my shoulders. She was happy, encouraging and positive. Over the next four months, I learned just how intelligent, quick-thinking and wonderful she is as a person and as a nurse."

She also reminded this new colleague how important it is to remember the special moments nurses share with their patients. Stevens takes the time to brush her patient's hair or shave her patient's beard and reminds this new colleague that these seemingly small gestures make a huge difference in patient care.

"I was blessed to be mentored by such a wonderful person who embodies everything it means to be a nurse," says the new colleague. "I have since completed orientation and moved to another unit, but Hannah still checks on me frequently, which shows just how amazing and invested she is."



Nichole Persing is DAISY Nurse Leader Award Recipient

Learn why the Progressive Coronary Care Unit Director is an innovative leader. Read her story.

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Nichole Persing, Director, Progressive Coronary Care Unit, LVH–Cedar Crest, is an innovative leader. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, she developed solutions to overcome challenges. Under her leadership, a team nursing approach was implemented to care for patients using Optiflow, which provides respiratory support using nasal high-flow therapy. The team approach benefits colleagues and patients alike.

Nurse leaders create the environment for staff to provide the compassionate, high-quality care our patients expect and deserve. Nursing communication is a key driver for patient experience performance. When Persing's unit was designated as the progressive care COVID-19 unit at LVH–Cedar Crest in March 2020, she kept colleagues updated on daily changes occurring as a result of the pandemic. She also was available to answer questions and provide guidance.

Through her leadership, positivity, support and advocacy, the team is motivated to provide holistic, patient-centered, detail-orientated care.

The DAISY Nurse Leader Award is presented in deep appreciation of compassionate leadership and for creating an environment of care that truly makes a difference in the lives of staff, patients and families. The award is given twice a year in the Lehigh Valley, once in the spring at our annual Medallion Lecture and again in the fall at our annual Nursing Research Day reception.



Colleague's Local Farm Blooms Into New Passion

Michelle Wagner's new farm sprouts hope.

LVHN Insider

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

A new farm just popped up in the Lehigh Valley, and Michelle Wagner, Valley Health Partners (VHP) project coordinator, is at the heart of it.

Founded in early 2021, [Rise and Root Farm](#) sits on a quarter of an acre of land in Emmaus, Pa., harvesting flowers and vegetables, including cucumbers, zucchini, tomatoes, peppers, beans, onions, potatoes, swiss chard and spinach. Wagner, the farm's founder, began farming out of an interest in sustainability and growing her own food. Now, she's earning a Master of Business Administration from Penn State to learn how she can run her business better.



“Business has been going well and this first year of farming has taught me a lot,” says Wagner. “It is a challenge to balance work and farming, but it is really rewarding to watch food grow from seeds I planted months prior.”

Through LVHN's [partnership with Kellyn Mobile Market](#), colleagues can enjoy fresh, local produce from Rise and Root Farm. Visit the market location near LVH-17th Street (Pinebrook Family Answers, 402 N. Fulton Street), every Thursday from 11:45 a.m.-2 p.m., where you can purchase vegetables straight from Wagner's farm.



While Wagner maintains her farm, she also maintains her role as a project coordinator of the [VHP Street Medicine team](#). The team provides medical care to individuals experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness in the Lehigh Valley. Serving Lehigh and Northampton

counties, the team makes street rounds to encampments and holds clinics in shelters and soup kitchens, meeting patients wherever they are.

“I enjoy being outside and active, so farming is a healthy outlet for me when I’m not working,” says Wagner.



Patt Lecture: The Ins and Outs of CAR T Cells

Craig Sauter, MD, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, will speak about CAR T cells.

Tuesday, September 21, 2021

Colleagues are invited to attend a virtual lecture event, "The Ins and Outs of CAR T Cells," presented by hematologist oncologist Craig Sauter, MD, Clinical Director, Adult Bone Marrow Transplant Service, with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Sauter is speaking at a Medical Grand Rounds sponsored by the 18th Annual Patt Endowed Lectureship in Oncology.

Date: Tuesday, Oct. 5

Time: 12-1 p.m.

Location: WebEx Virtual Meeting

<https://lvhn.webex.com/lvhn/j.php?MTID=ma244bcfcec438758f6b2a9024777fb9>

Join by video system

Dial 1803165016@lvhn.webex.com

Join by phone

1-415-655-0003 | Access code: 180 316 5016 | Password: MGRLVH

Designation Statement

Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) is accredited by the Pennsylvania Medical Society to provide continuing medical education for physicians. LVHN designates this live educational activity for a maximum 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™]. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the educational activity.

It is LVHN's policy to ensure balance, independence, objectivity and scientific rigor in our entire sponsored educational program. Faculty and all others who have the ability to control the content of continuing medical education activities sponsored by LVHN are expected to disclose to the audience whether they do or do not have any real or apparent conflicts of interest or other relationships related to the content of their presentation.

Grand Rounds are held the first Tuesday of the month at noon (unless otherwise noted).



Go to LVHN Colleague Flu Shot Clinic for Your Flu Shot

Colleague flu shot clinics will begin Oct. 1 and continue until Nov. 12.

LVHN Insider

Monday, September 20, 2021

Colleagues are reminded to get their flu shots this year as flu season quickly approaches.

Whether you provide direct patient care, continue to work on site at an LVHN facility or are working remotely, all colleagues must follow the LVHN influenza vaccination policy and all colleagues are expected to receive a flu vaccination.

Previously, only colleagues in patient-facing roles were required to get the influenza vaccine. Colleagues and independent medical staff may request a medical or religious exemption. Exception requests must be submitted by Nov. 1 at 4 p.m.

Call the employee health services office nearest to you to obtain an exemption request form:

- LVH–Cedar Crest, [610-402-8869](tel:610-402-8869)

- LVH–Muhlenberg, [484-884-7098](tel:484-884-7098)
- LVH–Pocono, [570-476-3779](tel:570-476-3779)
- LVH–Schuylkill, [570-621-4351](tel:570-621-4351)
- LVH–Hazleton, [570-501-4788](tel:570-501-4788)

Non-employed LVHN partners cannot request exemption. Requiring all colleagues to get the COVID-19 and influenza vaccines will help ensure we provide the safest possible care to our patients and keep colleagues and community members safe.

Making it easy to get your shot

View the schedules below to find the time and location that is right for you.

- [Lehigh Valley schedule](#)
- [Hazleton schedule](#)
- [Schuylkill schedule](#)
- [Pocono schedule](#)
- Coordinated Health colleagues: Visit any [Care on Demand office](#) during open hours.

What you need to know about safety precautions

LVHN is taking extra measures to make sure our flu clinics are as safe as possible.

- **Everyone must complete the Conversa COVID-19 screening the day of vaccination** – This is a requirement even if you work from home or do not have a shift scheduled for that day. To complete the screening visit <https://clinic.conversahealth.com/conversation/MjIwLTM3OTI> or text **lehigh** to 83973.
- **Fill out your consent form before arriving** – Prior to attending a flu shot clinic, you must complete the electronic consent form, which can be found in your TLC education bundle. Additionally, you can access the [electronic consent form](#) on our intranet.
- **Additional cleaning measures are used** – The LVHN team will take additional cleaning steps to ensure commonly touched surfaces are continually disinfected.
- **Distancing while you wait** – LVHN has protocols in place to ensure lines flow smoothly while allowing people to be socially distant.

Vaccinations received outside of an LVHN flu shot clinic

If you receive a flu vaccination at an LVPG practice or LVHN ExpressCARE, your proof of vaccination will automatically transfer to your employee health medical record. If you receive a flu vaccination outside of an LVHN flu shot clinic, an LVPG ExpressCARE or your LVPG provider, you must submit proof to employee health services. There are several ways to do this:

- **Upload to the intranet** – This is the preferred method to submit proof of vaccination. On the LVHN intranet go to Resources>>Employee>>Influenza information. Scroll to the forms section and click “Submit Your Flu Proof Here.”
- **Send an email** – You may also send proof via email to Kathleen_K.Bowers@lvhn.org.
- **Send a hard copy** – Printed proof can be sent to employee health services through interoffice mail or faxed to 610-402-1203. Make sure your name is clearly written on the document along with another unique identifier such as your LVHN computer user ID.

Get your flu shot as soon as possible

It takes two weeks for protection from a flu vaccine to develop in the body, so be sure to get your flu shot as soon as it becomes available to you. While getting a flu vaccine will not protect against COVID-19, there are many important benefits, including acting as a preventative tool for people who have chronic illnesses and minimizing the risk of becoming infected with both the flu and COVID-19.

Since 2010, CDC estimates that flu has resulted in between 140,000 and 960,000 hospitalizations each year. Flu vaccine prevents tens of thousands of hospitalizations each year. Just like COVID-19, influenza is a virus spread from person to person. While our community is experiencing a pandemic, it's more important than ever to do what you can to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Health networks across the country already have limited resources due to COVID-19. A large flu outbreak could result in added strain on health systems. Health care workers have a [special obligation to be vaccinated](#) because people who remain unvaccinated and spread the flu can cause serious harm to vulnerable patients.

Colleagues who join the health network after the colleague flu clinics have completed will still follow the LVHN vaccination policy and will be expected to receive a flu shot.



Open Enrollment: Oct. 11-29, 2021

It's time to choose the benefits that are best for you and your dependents.

LVHN Insider

Thursday, September 16, 2021

It's soon time to choose your benefits for 2022. Open Enrollment will take place Oct. 11-29.

Your health and the health of your dependents are important to LVHN. That's why we offer a comprehensive benefits package for all benefit-eligible colleagues.

Who is eligible?

- Colleagues at LVHN facilities in the Lehigh Valley and at Coordinated Health; non-union colleagues in Hazleton, Schuylkill and Pocono; and Schuylkill OPEIU Faculty colleagues.
- **New this year:** Hazleton AFSCME, Pocono JNESO, Schuylkill OPEIU and Schuylkill SEIU colleagues are eligible for LVHN core benefits.

Colleagues in all areas listed above must be scheduled to work 15 hours or more per week to be eligible.

What do you need to do?

- **Look for an Open Enrollment flyer in your home mail in late September.** It includes the steps you should take to choose the benefits that are best for you.
- **Visit the Colleague Resource Center.** That's where you will find all the details about your benefits. It's also where you will go to enroll beginning Oct. 11. To access the Colleague Resource Center, click the "LVHN CRC-Lawson" icon on your SSO toolbar.

Attend an open enrollment help session via Webex for colleagues who work at LVHN facilities in the Lehigh Valley; non-union colleagues in Hazleton, Pocono and Schuylkill; and Coordinated Health, HNL Lab Medicine and Schuylkill OPEIU Faculty colleagues.

These help sessions will assist with any benefit or enrollment questions you may have. [Click here to attend](#) on the following dates and times:

- Wednesday, Oct. 13: noon
- Thursday, Oct. 21: 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 26: 7:30 a.m.

Attend a special education session via Webex for Hazleton AFSCME, Pocono JNESO, Schuylkill OPEIU and Schuylkill SEIU colleagues.

Education sessions provide detailed information about the benefits available to you. [Click here to attend](#) on the following dates and times:

- Tuesday, Sept. 28: 7:30 a.m., noon
- Wednesday, Oct. 6: noon, 3 p.m.

Attend a special help session via Webex for Hazleton AFSCME, Pocono JNESO, Schuylkill OPEIU and Schuylkill SEIU colleagues.

These help sessions are for questions you may have regarding the enrollment process. [Click here to attend](#) on the following dates and times:

- Thursday, Oct. 14: 7:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, Oct. 20: noon, 3 p.m.

Hazleton OPEIU/OPEIU Home Health and Pocono JNESO colleagues

For detailed information about Open Enrollment, read the post card you will receive in your home mail in late September or visit the Colleague Resource Center.
