



We began our last newsletter by expressing our gratitude to our health care heroes, first responders and their families. In a year filled with so many challenges and uncertainty, I continue to be amazed by these selfless individuals and grateful for their sacrifice and commitment to serving our community. Their level of professionalism, determination, tenacity and service is to be commended.

Vaccinating Elk Grove

I want to stress the importance of getting the COVID-19 vaccine when it is available to you. Together, we can demonstrate humankindness by prioritizing our own health and the health of our community by getting the vaccine.

As of March 15, patients can now access [MyTurn](#) – the California Department of Public Health state-wide scheduling platform – and self-select through the eligibility criteria, including age, occupation and self-certification of medical conditions. If qualified, you will be directed to schedule a vaccination appointment. The *MyTurn* platform is health-system agnostic—if qualified, patients from any health system will be able to book an appointment at any vaccine clinic linked to the site.

Although supply continues to be a challenge, Dignity Health remains committed to the safe, equitable, and rapid distribution of the vaccine in our community. Remember, it is still vital that we continue to practice public health and safety measures such as wearing a mask, social distancing and washing hands.

Together we can help keep Elk Grove safe and healthy while we work towards vaccinating our whole community.



Transforming the way we use hospitals

As we approach the first anniversary of COVID-19's unwelcome arrival, it's worth reminding ourselves that while the pandemic has kept us apart, technology has kept us connected. That's not a novel observation, but it is a dynamic that holds particular relevance for how we provide access to health care in future years. The old methods are changing rapidly as we pursue more effective and efficient patient care.

Telemedicine, or virtual care, has already moved some services to outpatient clinics and to a home-based setting. As people become more confident in the use of digital communication platforms, these changes will become permanent. For us at Dignity Health, the past year has been a reminder that effective treatment and care does not have to be confined to a building with four walls. In this [video](#), Dr. Christine Braid, Osteopathic Medicine, Mercy Medical Group shares how the convenience of virtual care has helped her become even closer with her patients.

While the pandemic brought on a heightened utilization of telemedicine, we expect this change to be permanent. There's no question that telemedicine is highly convenient for doctors and patients alike. It affords physicians the flexibility to more effectively manage their patient schedule and requires a smaller time commitment from patients since they can attend the appointment from home. For patients, telemedicine eliminates time traveling to and from the Doctor's office. And it allows doctors to spend more time diagnosing and treating patients.

Doctors, nurses and medical professionals have always been relentless in looking for new ways to improve—through more effective medicine, procedures and medical devices that make for improved outcomes. Every year it gets better and this past year was no exception.

For more information, please visit dignityhealth.org/socal/virtual-urgent-care-visits.

Dignity Health Celebrates Black History Month

As you know, February was Black History Month and Dignity Health was proud to highlight our employees, physicians, and medical students and their experiences and contributions to our organization and communities. Embracing diversity is a central part of Dignity Health's mission and values. We are honored to celebrate these individuals and their acts of humankindness. You can watch their stories by clicking the links below.

Let's commit to continued progress moving forward.

[Dignity Health Black History Month](#)
[Lloyd H. Dean, CommonSpirit Health CEO](#)

Dignity in the Community

We are thrilled to continue our relationship with Elk Grove Unified School District and look forward to seeing the next generation of healthcare heroes further their education through the EGUSD Career Pathways Program. Together with Dignity Health physicians, students are tackling the challenging topics of our healthcare world through online instruction while building relationships with our experts.

In coordination with the Elk Grove Food Bank, Creekside church of Elk Grove and the Elk Grove Police Department, Dignity Health distributed 400 COVID-19 vaccinations to those most in need. We are extremely grateful to the many partners involved in helping us carry out vaccine clinic efforts. From local public officials to community organizations like the Food Bank, It's truly been a collaborative effort to make Elk Grove a safer, healthier community.

Regards,

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