

Dignity Health Elk Grove Q3 Newsletter

Subject line: Elk Grove Update – Caring for Our Community



It's hard to believe we're nearly at the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020, and as we continue to face unprecedented challenges with COVID-19 and an early fire season, Dignity Health would like to thank all of those working on the frontlines. We cannot express enough gratitude to our health care heroes and first responders.

In a year filled with uncertainty, our community has come together to meet every challenge head on. As a longtime partner in the Elk Grove community, we will continue working alongside our neighbors, family and friends. To that end, we're pleased to share another quarterly update and look forward to our ongoing partnership.

### **Supporting Healthy Communities**

In the wake of COVID-19, hospitals throughout the state, including Methodist Hospital of Sacramento, are seeing a decline in patients seeking care when they need it. We want to assure you that our hospitals and medical offices are safe and ready to care for anyone who needs it. Additionally, expanded access to telemedicine services makes it easier for you to connect with your doctor. Most routine and acute care visits can be done from the comfort of your home. Dr. Christine Baird [explains in this video how virtual visits](#) are a convenient way to stay current on your health care needs.

Dignity Health has also partnered with several local organizations to give back to our friends, neighbors and those in need. [We recently partnered with the American Heart Association](#) on the 'Don't Die of Doubt' awareness campaign to curb an alarming trend of individuals delaying care due to concerns of potentially contracting COVID-19 at local hospitals.

In an effort to address the spread of COVID-19 among populations that have and continue to be disproportionately impacted by this deadly virus, Dignity Health has joined forces with our health system counterparts to provide funding to a Latinx public health campaign, in collaboration with La Familia, other stakeholders including the City of Sacramento, Sacramento County and other community-based organizations. The Latinx community currently accounts for 56 percent of COVID-19 cases and 46 percent of COVID-19 deaths, according to data from the state's health department of public health.

### **Community Forums**

Over the past few months, we have participated in and hosted several events to hear directly from you about issues that matter and share how Dignity Health can strengthen our ties with the Elk Grove community. I was honored to speak to the residents of Del Webb during a virtual community meeting in August, as well as host a [Facebook Live town hall with Councilman Darren Suen](#). We will continue participating in more community meetings to share more information and progress on Dignity Health's plan to build Elk Grove's first hospital.

### **Supporting our Health Care Heroes**

During this pandemic we have received overwhelming support from the Elk Grove community. Businesses, non-profits, community groups and individuals have come together to support their health care heroes. [We cannot thank Elk Grove enough for the generosity it has shown Dignity Health and our caregivers throughout the region.](#)



Dignity Health also sponsored Sacramento's [Wide Open Walls](#) festival and mural event this month to honor our health care heroes. Art heals us, inspires us and gives us hope. Dignity Health is proud to be a part of [#artforall](#) in the Sacramento region.

### **Supporting Careers in Health Care**

COVID-19 has reinforced how important it is that we invest in the next generation of health care leaders, and we are incredibly proud to collaborate with the Elk Grove Unified School District (EGUSD) Pathways program to pair Pathway and Academy students with related hospital programs and specialists. This partnership will provide more insight into the day-to-day work of various medical fields. Students will hear directly from leaders in lab work, emergency departments, medical imaging, nursing, family medicine and more. We're grateful to EGUSD for the opportunity to work with California's future health care leaders! Check out the amazing work of the [EGUSD Pathway and Academy programs here!](#)

### **Preparing for Flu Season**

As we move into the fall and winter months, preparing for flu season is even more important given the impact the pandemic has had on our communities. This year, it will be more important than ever to get your flu shot. Together, we can demonstrate humankindness by prioritizing our health and the health of our community. For more information about where to get flu shots, contact your local provider or visit the [Sacramento County Department of Public Health](#) for information on free flu shot clinics.

I look forward to sharing additional updates with you as your Elk Grove partner.

Regards,

**Phyllis Baltz**

President

Methodist Hospital of Sacramento