

SPRING 2021

pulse



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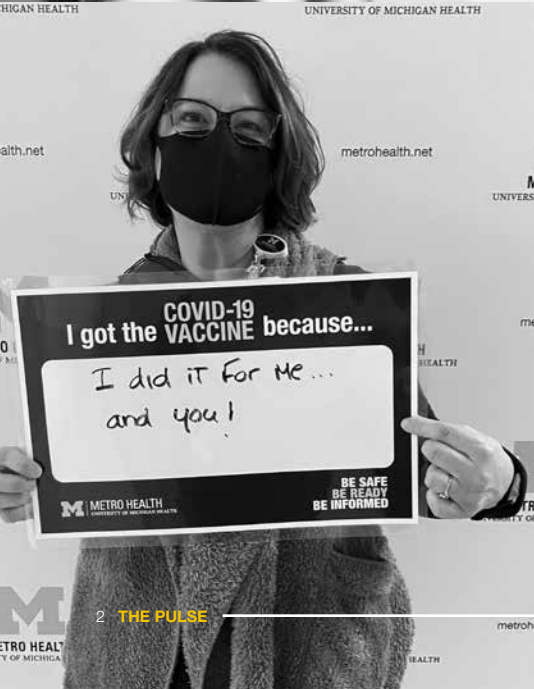
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Friends & Supporters of the Metro Health Hospital Foundation,

We at the Foundation recognize how difficult this last year has been for everyone. Despite the challenges we have faced, we begin this year with hope and gratitude. Why? Because of all of you.

In the last year, the Foundation has provided support to our frontline caregivers through financial assistance, childcare, and PPE; we've funded innovative new equipment to make surgeries and patient recovery times more efficient; and we invested in new opportunities for increased COVID-19 testing for Metro Health patients.

We couldn't have done any of it without all of you. You continue to walk alongside our caregivers and patients, ensuring they receive the compassionate, personal care we are known for at Metro Health. We are deeply grateful to be a part of this generous community who cares.

As we look forward to 2021, we support the distribution of a safe and effective vaccine to put an end to the COVID-19 pandemic... so we can see you safely once again!

On behalf of our tireless and courageous healthcare workers, the patients we serve, and from all of us at the Foundation, thank you for your unwavering support. We couldn't do this critical work without you.

With Gratitude,

Jaime Counterman
Foundation Director



Vaccine Questions Answered

Metro Health believes a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine is the best way to protect ourselves, our loved ones, and our community. We know there's hesitancy around receiving a new vaccine. So, we sat down with **Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Ronald Grifka**, to ask him a few questions and clear up some misconceptions.

Why was this vaccine so quickly available?

Once the vaccine was developed and the pharmaceutical companies moved into clinical trials by testing on over 40,000 volunteers, they decided to simultaneously start producing the vaccine. By doing this, if the vaccine testing and review proved that it was safe and effective, they would have tens of millions of doses already made and ready to be administered to the public. The time frame was shortened to produce it, but the timeframe was not compromised to prove it was safe and effective. Keep in mind, this was a bit of a gamble, for if the vaccine was not safe and effective, they would have had to destroy the tens of millions of doses they had already made.

Are there any major health concerns about receiving it as a result?

The vaccines that are available to the public went through a thorough testing and evaluation process. There was no compromise in the scientific analysis. Thankfully, we were able to immunize millions of people once the clinical trials proved this was a safe and effective vaccine.

Why is a 95% effectiveness rate so impressive?

The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are some of the best vaccines ever produced. At 95% efficacy, the vaccine far surpasses the flu vaccine which, is only 30-55% effective. The goal for the COVID-19 vaccine was to obtain 50% efficacy; the fact that they were able to achieve 95% efficacy is an amazing achievement and doubles the protection for the people who receive the vaccine.

How many vaccines has Metro Health provided so far?

Metro Health has provided over 10,000 vaccines – immunizing our healthcare staff, frontline responders and many patients in the community. We are staffed and prepared to immunize many more.

What is the single most important thing you want the public to know about the COVID-19 vaccine?

The COVID-19 vaccine was produced by excellent scientific processes. It is very safe and effective, and it has fewer side effects than many vaccines. I encourage everyone to get this vaccine as soon as they can because this is our safety net. It will save millions of lives. This is the best way by which we get out of this pandemic and back to normal living.



To learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine and how to sign up to receive one, visit metrohealth.net.



Metro Health Awarded Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade A Rating

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED

Metro Health – University of Michigan Health is taking healthcare to a better place with a recent award of an “A” rating by the Leapfrog Group’s Hospital Safety Grade.

For the last 20 years, the Leapfrog Group has given ratings to hospitals for their efforts to take “giant leaps forward in the quality and safety” of healthcare for the communities they serve. This nonprofit leader reviews more than 2,600 hospitals nationwide for their commitments to patient safety and reducing errors, infections, and injuries. This fall, Metro Health was the only hospital in Grand Rapids to receive the “A” rating in 2020.

“Keeping our patients safe has been a top priority during this pandemic,” said Stacie Bommersbach, Vice President of Quality and Patient Safety at Metro Health. “This honor demonstrates the tremendous team effort in place at Metro Health to continually improve the care our patients receive.”

**NATIONALLY
RECOGNIZED**
FOR SAFETY & QUALITY



MetroHealth.net

Metro Health Opens Two New Locations

Join us in Hudsonville or on the East Beltline

Metro Health's first office exclusively for pediatric care is now open, located at 2917 Port Sheldon Street in Hudsonville, MI. This office provides a family-friendly environment for every age and every stage of childhood. The new location is designed for the convenience and peace of mind of parents, with extended hours, walk-in visits and same-day appointments. Contactless check-ins and in-room checkouts add safety and efficiency, allowing families to visit with confidence.

"This design has the same goal I have every time I meet with a patient, and that is to put children at ease and help them be comfortable talking about their health," said Metro Health pediatrician, Dr. Caitlin Mlynarek.

She and fellow pediatrician, Dr. Kurt Meppelink, relocated to the new office from the nearby Metro Health Hudsonville office, which will continue to support adult patients.

Metro Health Beltline is also open, located at 1310 East Beltline SE in Grand Rapids. The new office will house Primary Care services, as well as Sports Medicine, Adult and Pediatric Cardiology and Pediatric Endocrinology. From injuries and joint pain to maintaining overall good health, the experts at this location are here to help you feel your best at every stage of life.



SAVE THE DATE



Ian Snyder

Foundation welcomes new team member

The Foundation is excited to welcome Ian Snyder as their new Database and Foundation Support Specialist. An alumna of AmeriCorps, Ian has spent the last ten years serving in a variety of nonprofits across California, Oregon, Utah, and Colorado. He graduated from Grand Valley State University studying Public and Nonprofit Administration with a concentration on community development and comes to us from Heart of West Michigan United Way. He is importing his knowledge of database management and customer service experience to help on both the back and front end of the Foundation. In his free time Ian loves running, reading, and going to live performances. Please join us in saying a warm welcome!

Leading Hearts & Minds with the Metro Health Hospital Foundation in 2021

The past year has given our community a chance to demonstrate its true qualities. Metro Health proved that not even a pandemic could hold back our relentless innovation for healthcare excellence. At the same time, the people of West Michigan showed the incredible depth of their courage and compassion. Combined, these characteristics create an unstoppable alliance.

Thank You. Foundation donors make a real difference in the lives of patients. You walk alongside our caregivers, including those on the COVID-19 frontlines, who are leading a new era of medical expertise. Here's how your gift can touch lives & make a difference by sponsoring or attending our four signature events this year:

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

also available at
metrohealth.net/foundation/events

For information, please
contact the Foundation at
616-252-5000 or
foundation@metrogr.org



HOPE & HEALING

VIRTUAL HAPPY HOUR
APRIL 13, 2021

PRESENTED BY
AHC HOSPITALITY
HOTELS + RESORTS + RESTAURANTS
a management company

Support our unmatched team of nurses; the heart of our professional, compassionate and expert care.

BID & BENEFIT AUCTION

THOUSAND OAKS GOLF CLUB
JUNE 17, 2021

Contribute to the leading care Metro Health provides to patients with skin cancer, the most common type of cancer in the world.



METRO WAY 5K

METRO HEALTH VILLAGE GREEN
JULY 15, 2021

PRESENTED BY



Provide community health initiatives that connect people with free and low-cost services, classes and events.

VITALITY GALA

DEVOS PLACE
SEPTEMBER 11, 2021

Reinforce Metro Health's commitment to women's health throughout their lives.

Metro Health Hospital Foundation

5900 Byron Center Ave SW
Wyoming, MI 49519

616.252.5000 | metrohealth.net/foundation

ADDRESSEE
ORGANIZATION
ADDRESS LINE 1
ADDRESS LINE 2
CSZ

UPCOMING EVENTS

Virtual Hope & Healing

Tuesday, April 13

Bid & Benefit Auction

Thursday, June 17

Metro Way 5K

Thursday, July 15

VITALity Gala

Saturday, September 11



METRO HEALTH

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH

Hospital Foundation