COVID-19 UPDATE

- The Houston Metropolitan Area, including Beaumont and Galveston, is expecting to hit the peak of COVID April 25 – 28.
- The estimate of positive COVID-19 cases in the Houston Metropolitan Area is 30,000.
- After the peak of cases, we should then see a fading of community transmissions by mid June.
- If YOU have a confirmed case of COVID-19, it is your obligation to disclose the positive diagnosis to UTHealth before you are permitted to return to work. Faculty, staff and trainees must contact Employee Health Services at 713-500-3267 or the newly designated COVID-19 phone number 713-500-2683.
- This website shows the number of COVID cases in Texas and it breaks it down by county. [https://txdshs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/ed483ecd702b4298ab01e8b9cafc8b83](https://txdshs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/ed483ecd702b4298ab01e8b9cafc8b83)

DISCOUNTS FOR FRONTLINE MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS DURING COVID-19

- Hilton and American Express are donating up to 1 million rooms to front line medical professionals through May 31, 2020. You can use the room to sleep, recharge, or isolate from your family, if needed. Use this link for more info [https://newsroom.hilton.com/corporate/news/hilton-american-express-team-up-to-donate-rooms](https://newsroom.hilton.com/corporate/news/hilton-american-express-team-up-to-donate-rooms)
- Uber is pledging 10 million free rides and deliveries of food for the frontline healthcare workers, seniors and people in need around the world. They are providing free transportation for frontline workers, helping them get to and from patients’ homes, as well as between healthcare facilities. They have also waived the delivery fee for restaurants. [https://www.uber.com/us/en/coronavirus/](https://www.uber.com/us/en/coronavirus/)
- Miscellaneous Discounts
  - AT&T Phone Service [https://about.att.com/story/2020/fn_free_service.html](https://about.att.com/story/2020/fn_free_service.html)
  - Care.com [https://www.care.com/frontline](https://www.care.com/frontline)
  - Circle K [https://www.circlek.com/our-small-way-saying-thank-you](https://www.circlek.com/our-small-way-saying-thank-you)
  - Starbucks is offering a tall brewed (hot or iced) coffee free to front line responders.
  - Genghis Grill is offering 20% off carryout to healthcare workers. [https://www.genghisgrill.com/](https://www.genghisgrill.com/)

UT UPDATES

- Auxiliary Enterprises-Parking Services will be discounting all monthly parking contracts at UTHealth owned garages and lots by 50% for the month of April.
  - If you have payroll deduction for your parking, you do not need to do anything.
  - If you pay day-by-day you can print this voucher to get 50% off your daily parking. [50% off voucher](#)
- UT is offering on-line Learning and Development opportunities for all employees. [https://www.uth.edu/hr/department/learning-and-development/index.htm](https://www.uth.edu/hr/department/learning-and-development/index.htm) After you open this link, look to the left of the page and click on Learn2Succeed.

UTH WELLNESS

- UTHealth has established a dedicated phone line for mental health support for all employees, 713-486-COVD (2683). This allows quicker access to psychiatric care. Appointments made by calling 713-486-COVD will be conducted via telemedicine.
- Virtual meditation sessions are offered on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- MDLive is offered through Blue Cross Blue Shield. They provide virtual psychiatric and counseling services with no copay for non-emergent services.
- Gov. Abbott announced a program from care.com that supplements existing benefits for front-line UTHealth employees.
- These mental health resources are always available:
  - **Staff: Employee Assistance Program**, 713-500-3327, 24/7 for crisis calls (no cost for EAP visits/tele-counseling and in-person sessions available)
  - **Faculty: Faculty Assistance Program**, 713-500-3880, 24/7 for crisis calls (no cost for EAP visits/tele-counseling and in-person sessions available)
  - **Residents and Fellows**: 713-500-3327, 24/7 for crisis calls (no cost for EAP visits/tele-counseling and in-person sessions available)
  - **Students**: Student Counseling Program and Psychiatric services 713-500-5171 and 24-hour crisis line
- If you have any questions regarding finances or how to save money, UT has a program called Your Money Line. Use this link to learn more about Your Money Line [https://inside.uth.edu/eap/employee-assistance/resources/money_line](https://inside.uth.edu/eap/employee-assistance/resources/money_line)
• If you want to see what other services our EAP office offers, click on this link:  https://inside.uth.edu/eap/employee-assistance/index.htm

CONTINUE TO...
• Practice Social Distancing
• Self-Monitor
• Wear a mask if you are in any UT building
• Do not come to work if you are sick

LET’S CELEBRATE!
Nathan McDaniel, our Credentialing Specialist, has been accepted in the Texas Tech Master of Science in Healthcare Administration Program. He will begin distance learning courses this summer from the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center Campus. Way to go Nathan!!

Congratulations, Dr. Nguyen and Paloma on the birth of their daughter Zoe Alicia. Zoe was born April 15th; weighing in at 5lbs 7oz. Mom and baby are doing great. Zoe is gorgeous!!

NOW THAT’S FUNNY
Meet Lawrence, he is Dr. Li’s 4 year old son. Lawrence decided to cut his own hair! Looks like he was going for the “Quarantine Fade”. Don’t worry Dr. Li, it will grow out!

How the non-essentials be treating their essential spouses when they get home from work

When the barbershop, nail salon, salon, and Mexican restaurants open back up.
**MEET OUR NEWEST “CO-WORKERS”**

This is Monty, he is 3 months old. His proud parents are Thian Nguyen and Forest Trager. He is a cutie!

Here is Pumpkin, she is Dianna Schmeda’s rescue kitty. She likes to nap when Mom is on Webex calls.

Meet Princess Laia and Yoda, their Mom is Barbara Montemayor. Laia likes to help Mom with coding and Yoda waits patiently for her turn to help too.

**EASTER FUN**

Melanie and Eliana are Claudia Loza’s daughters. They are having a little water fun on Easter Sunday!

Ren and Kai are Dr. Kawaguchi’s sons. They are having fun dyeing eggs for the Easter Bunny!

**AWE, THEY’RE SO CUTE!**

Meet Caroline, she is Dr. Fletcher’s 8 ½ year old granddaughter. She is waiting patiently for Dr. Fletcher to come home.

Hello Luisa! She is Christina Morice’s 4 month old cutie!

Meet DJ, he is Dr. Crawford’s 2 year old son. He is listening to a Webex and will update Mom later.

**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

19  Matthew Greives
19  Nathalie Crowley
22  Kristin Day
25  Manish Shah

If you would like to submit a picture, a meme or something to celebrate, send it to Scottie.Wahlstrom@uth.tmc.edu

See ya next week!!