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[**Weekly Relays User Guide**](https://ispace.utmb.edu/xythoswfs/webview/_xy-12470404_1)

**TOPICS LEGEND**

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| C:\Users\krhensle\Desktop\SMALL LOGO (2).jpg | WEEKLY RELAYS | **July 29, 2021** |
| **YOUR DEPARTMENT NEWS** | **UTMB NEWS** |
|  | **\*\*\*TODAY AT NOON\*\*\*****Special COVID-19 Q&A livestream with Dr. Sharma:**Join UTMB’s chief medical officer, Dr. Gulshan Sharma, and other key members of the COVID-19 Clinical Task Force for a COVID-19 update and question and answer session. The online session is for UTMB employees and will be offered live via Microsoft Teams from **noon to 1 p.m. on July 29**. Access the Teams Live Event link at [COVID Update with Dr. Sharma](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3Ameeting_M2ViNjBiY2MtZTQzMC00MzU3LWFlOGEtMjE0NDk0NDhjNTdj%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%227bef256d-85db-4526-a72d-31aea2546852%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%229edf6e60-56fa-487f-b112-421d06b778ee%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3atrue%7d&btype=a&role=a). Topics will include information about the Delta variant, vaccination rates and updates, clinics and testing. The meeting will be recorded and available online after the event. Questions will be provided by the Employee Advisory Council and may also be submitted via chat during the meeting.**COVID-19 UPDATES**The Delta variant of the COVID virus is highly transmissible and spreading rapidly in our region. The UTMB COVID Clinical Task Force has updated guidelines for masking, COVID testing, meeting room capacity, visitation and more. See the latest and pay attention to any future updates, as the situation evolves:* [July 22 COVID Clinical Task Force message](https://www.utmb.edu/covid-19/article/institutional-support-updates/2021/07/22/updated-employee-student-guidelines)
* [Safety Guidelines for Employees and Students](https://www.utmb.edu/covid-19/employees-students/safety#sick)
* [July 26 Update to Visitation Policy](https://utmb.us/546)
* [Message to Volunteers](https://utmb.us/549)
* [Schedule a Vaccine](https://www.utmb.edu/covid-19/vaccine/)

**ACTION ITEM****Reminder—Annual Benefits Enrollment:**The deadline for making changes to your benefits elections, adding or removing dependents, and/or enrolling in a flexible spending account for the 2021–2022 benefits plan year is 11:59 p.m. on July 31. To view or update your current coverage, log in to the [My UT Benefits](https://bfi.secure3-enroll.com/sso/saml/MyUTBenefits) online system by identifying UTMB as your institution and entering your UTMB user name and password. For more annual enrollment information, please see <https://www.utmb.edu/hr/employees/compensation-and-benefits/annual-enrollment>.**$3,000 Employee Referral Bonus for Nurse Clinicians II-IV:**All paid UTMB employees who refer an applicant to a Nurse Clinician II–IV position at any of our campus hospitals will be eligible for a special $3,000 bonus. If your referral is successfully hired into a benefits-eligible position between Aug. 10 and Sept. 10, you will receive $1,500 when they complete six months of service and another $1,500 when they complete one year of service. For more information about the bonus requirements and guidelines, please see <https://www.utmb.edu/hr/employees/employee-recognition-and-perks>.  |
| OPICSLEGEND |  PATIENT CARE EDUCATION & RESEARCH INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT CMC |
| **AROUND UTMB** (Use the legend above to quickly find items of interest to your team) |
| **IN CASE YOU MISSED IT****Provost’s Lecture Series on July 12:**Thanks to all who participated in the most recent Provost's Lecture, held Monday, July 12. Racial equity consultant Joyce James, LMSW-AP, presented “A Groundwater Analysis of Institutional and Structural Racism: Turning the Mirror Inward.” Ms. James discussed the importance of understanding the underlying factors that contribute to racial inequities, and how, in doing so, we are better equipped to build more effective programs and transform systems towards increased accountability. The recording from this talk is now online; view the Zoom recording at <https://utmb.us/54a>. **The Joint Commission Questions of the Week**:***Will I have to speak with the Joint Commission surveyors?***While not every person will have the opportunity to speak with The Joint Commission surveyors, those involved in direct patient care, ancillary services and support services will likely encounter the surveyors. If you have the opportunity to speak with a surveyor, be confident, positive and demonstrate what you know. ***What if I don’t understand what the surveyor is asking me?***First, don’t allow too much of a pause between their question and your response. If you don’t understand the question, kindly ask the surveyor to repeat the question. You can ask the surveyor to rephrase the question in a different way. For example: “I’m not sure what you are asking me. Could you explain what you mean?”  Remember, you know your job; the surveyors are just asking you to explain what you do.***What if I don’t know the answer? Should I make one up?***Be truthful. If you do not know an answer, say so and tell the surveyor where or whom to go to for the answer. This might include referring to a policy manual or contacting a director, supervisor or another department. Falsification or misrepresentation is absolutely not tolerated and can cause the organization to lose its accreditation.*Note: Keep in mind there are some things that all staff should know without looking up, such as where to find emergency exits and fire extinguishers.* | ***Notes:*** |
| **DID YOU KNOW?**UTMB scientists played a vital role in the development of the COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine with both the first two phases of vaccine testing being conducted at the university. UTMB scientists continue to test the Pfizer vaccine’s effectiveness against the different COVID-19 variants, and those results confirm that the vaccine remains highly effective. As of July 27, UTMB had administered 301,373 total vaccine doses across Southeast Texas. Those interested in getting the vaccine can schedule [COVID vaccine or care appointments online](https://www.utmbhealth.com/online-services/appointment/home), by calling their primary care provider’s office or by emailing c19vacsch@utmb.edu with specific vaccine requests or questions. Those without a primary care provider can call UTMB’s 24-7 Access Center for assistance at (409) 772-2222 or [explore primary care providers online](https://doctors.utmbhealth.com/ProviderSearch/Find?SearchText=Primary%20Care&SearchCategory=Specialties&currentPage=0&pageCount=0&leftMostPage=0&pageRange=0&MaxDistance=0&SortType=PatientAcceptanceStatusAscThenLastNameAsc&SetSchema=False). |