Ben

[**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 | **May 7, 2020** |
| **YOUR DEPARTMENT NEWS** | **UTMB NEWS** |
|  | **Weekly Wellness recap:** Wellness tips are shared by the UTMB RISE (Resilience in Stressful Events) Task Force as just one way we can all work to stay emotionally healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information on resiliency, visit <https://utmb.us/424>.* **Try a day or a moment of meditation**. Find peace of mind in the midst of turmoil and help foster hope and optimism. (Thanks to Gretchen Kaufman, HR Talent Acquisition, for this tip.)
* **Identify gratitude today.** Take two minutes to note what you are thankful for today as a team or on your own. Share this and remind yourself throughout the day. (Thanks to Kelly Ledford, Information Services, for this tip.)
* **Create, cultivate or invite in beauty today:** It’s a powerful antidote to despair and it gives us agency and power. Write, draw, dream, sing and share some form of beauty today.
* **Who do you appreciate on your team today?** Let them know with a G.E.M. card, a text, an email, a Skype call or phone call. (Thanks to Faith Robin Phillips, HR Organizational Development, for this tip.)
* **At home, start a gratitude jar for your family.** Have slips of papers and a pen or pencil attached to a large jar and have every member write something they appreciate about every member of their family. Each member has to submit one per week for each member of the family. On special occasions, read the slips of paper to the family. (Thanks to Faith Robin Phillips, HR Organizational Development for this tip.)

**Information regarding a U.S. Department of Education request:** Dr. Ben Raimer, UTMB president ad interim, announced in a [May 1 message](https://utmb.us/41y) that the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) recently requested documentation from both UTMB and UT System regarding contractual and other funding relationships with foreign entities. UTMB, by statute, submits documentation annually to the DOE, and we are fully complying with this recent request. **COVID-19: Novel coronavirus updates****Entrance screening update:** Effective May 6, employees and visitors will continue to be screened at our health system facility entrances, but we will no longer do a temperature check as part of the screening. The decision is based on data regarding mass testing and low infection rates in Galveston and Brazoria counties, a low infection rate among tested employees, and emerging studies showing only a third of individuals infected with COVID-19 develop a fever. For more information, see the [May 5 message](https://utmb.us/41z) from the COVID-19 Clinical Task Force.**8 Days off in 8 Weeks Plan update: In a recent** message from Vivian Kardow, vice president of Human Resources, it was announced that upon further review of the “8 Days off in 8 Weeks” plan, UTMB's Department of Legal Affairs and The University of Texas System’s Office of General Counsel determined that the institution is unable to authorize employees to borrow against future leave accruals or to allow employees to carry a temporary negative accrual balance. To read the full message, visit <https://utmb.us/41x> |
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| **AROUND UTMB** (Use the legend above to quickly find items of interest to your team) |
| **Latest on safely increasing clinical services:** UTMB is proceeding with making all services available back in their normal clinic locations by May 12. While all services have been available throughout the pandemic, this will put our services back in their familiar clinic home locations for patients. This helps emphasize the message to the community and our patients that we are here and available for all health care needs. As part of this effort, we will be piloting the resumption of walk-in services for urgent care for UTMB employees. For more on UTMB’s plan to safely increase clinical services, visit <https://www.utmb.edu/covid-19/safe>.**CMC’s response to COVID-19 discussed during latest episode of In Focus**: In the video message captured April 30, UTMB President ad interim Dr. Ben Raimer speaks with Dr. Owen Murray, vice president for Offender Care Services, and Dr. Olubenga Ojo, chief medical officer for Hospital Galveston, about how UTMB's Correctional Managed Care program has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. To view the full episode, visit <https://utmb.us/420>.**Angleton Danbury triage tent**: Look for the triage tent at the Angleton Danbury Campus Emergency Department to come down in the next few days.**COVID-19 site:** You can find the latest information regarding UTMB’s institution-wide response online at [www.utmb.edu/covid-19](http://www.utmb.edu/covid-19).**REMINDER****Health System and Nurses Week (May 6-15):** UTMB is celebrating Health System & Nurses Week May 6-15 this year. The week combines National Hospital Week and Nurses Week as an opportunity to acknowledge and thank one another for everything we collectively do to care for our patients. No profession can do it all alone! It takes everyone working together, from physicians, nurses, physical and occupational therapists, respiratory therapists, our lab teams, technicians, engineers, food services employee, environmental services employee, maintenance workers and countless others—to provide excellent patient care. Due to COVID-19, events this year will be celebrated locally and online. Access a special Health System & Nurses Week Greeting from Health System leadership and a list of suggested events, videos and resources for your team here:<https://utmb.us/429>. Thank you to the Nursing Retention Council for their creativity in organizing this year’s events! |  **Minimum Standards for Safe Practice (Required Signage)**: The Texas Medical Board Executive Committee has adopted an emergency rule related to Gov. Abbott’s Executive Order GA-19. This emergency amendment describes the minimum standards for safe practice that physicians and their delegates must follow, regardless of the practice setting. The new rule is effective immediately. Of note, the rule clarifies that a mask must be worn by both the patient and physician or the physician’s delegate when in proximity of the patient (i.e., less than a 6-foot distance). Please be advised that patient masking applies to both inpatient and outpatient settings, as well as transportation. Additionally, prior to care involving a medical procedure or surgery on the mucous membranes (i.e., eyes, mouth, nose or rectum), including the respiratory tract, where there is a high risk of aerosol transmission, all providers performing the procedure and all persons in the room should wear N95 masks and face shields—this precaution applies to procedures in clinics and in the operating room, whether the patient is COVID-positive or not. The rule also requires that providers post notice of these minimum standards to ensure patients understand the measures being taken for their safety during this pandemic. For complete details on the masking requirements on masking requirements and to download the signage, please visit UTMB’s COVID-19 website at <https://utmb.us/41s>.  |
| **DID YOU KNOW?** Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, UTMB’s 24/7 Access Center and Nurse Triage Line—available at (800) 917-8906— has been instrumental in ensuring patients continue to receive the care they need while staying safe. At one time during the last few weeks, the team tasked with screening and guiding individuals to the most appropriate option for their care recorded call volumes more than 140% greater than normal. To help with the increased demand, more than 60 individuals—including approximately 25 nurses and 35 patient service specialists—were cross-trained from other areas of the organization to support the additional need to triage patients over the phone. As UTMB welcomes patients back to all of our ambulatory clinics for face-to-face care beginning May 12, the Access Center remains the first stop for individuals with routine and urgent care needs. For more information, visit, <https://www.utmbhealth.com/support-pages/access-center>. |