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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 | | **February 11, 2021** |
| **YOUR DEPARTMENT NEWS** | | | **UTMB NEWS** | |
| [**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS ALL-STAR AWARD**](https://www.utmb.edu/meded/AA/AAARedir.asp) The School of Medicine Academic Affairs All-Star Award (AAA Award) has been created to recognize employees within Academic Affairs for going above and beyond. Employees can be recognized by peers, subordinates and supervisors for their outstanding work and the AAA Award can be utilized by any employee in any of the School of Medicine Academic Affairs departments (Office of Continuing Education, Educational Affairs, Educational Development, Instructional Management Office, Office of Clinical Education, Student Affairs and Physician Assistant Studies). If you would like to submit an AAA Award for someone, you can do so by clicking here:  [Academic Affairs All-Star Award](https://www.utmb.edu/meded/AA/AAARedir.asp) | | | **WEATHER ALERT**  **UTMB monitoring potential for freezing temperatures in the coming days:**  UTMB officials are monitoring a strong cold front that is already affecting travel in northern parts of the state. Current forecasts for the Houston/Galveston region are evolving, but there could be a chance of prolonged cold temperatures and freezing precipitation as far south as the coast by early next week. We encourage everyone to monitor local conditions in your area over the next several days. Be prepared at home, school and work to ensure your and your family’s safety. Stay in touch with your supervisor for instructions should hazardous weather conditions occur in your area. We will update the online weather alert website at <https://www.utmb.edu/alert/> as the forecast develops.  **Telecommuting Task Force update**:  The UTMB Telecommuting Task Force has completed Phase One of its work, which included a survey of about 10 percent of UTMB’s work force and interviews with 50 department leaders. Phase Two begins on Feb. 16 with the launch of a survey of employees who work in the Rebecca Sealy Building or the SON/SHP Building on the Galveston Campus. See the [Feb. 11 Telecommuting Task Force Update](https://intranet.utmb.edu/iutmb/article/2021/02/11/update-from-utmb's-telecommuting-task-force)for more information.    **Gift stores closing in Galveston and League City**:  The gift stores located at the John Sealy and Jennie Sealy hospitals on the Galveston Campus, as well as the gift shop at the League City Hospital Campus, will be closing Feb. 13. We understand this will cause some inconvenience for patients and employees, but rest assured, UTMB is working to secure new services for these locations. We will provide updates as new information becomes available.  **Information Services continues to make progress with adoption of Office365**:  A great deal of progress has been made in UTMB’s transition to Office365 applications. All user mailboxes have been successfully migrated to Exchange Online. Xythos (iSpace) has been migrated to SharePoint Online. Coming soon: Skype for Business will be officially retired the second quarter of this year and will be replaced by Microsoft Teams. And, the shift to OneDrive for Business from H: drives is now in progress. Information Services will no longer be creating H: drives for new accounts. We have begun the transition to OneDrive for Business for personal drive space and are working with departments individually to transition existing H: drives to OneDrive for Business. OneDrive for Business gives individuals up to 1 terabyte of space and allows individuals to access their data from virtually any internet connected device. For more information on the transition to Office 365, visit [www.utmb.edu/o365](http://www.utmb.edu/o365). | |
| TOPICS  LEGEND | PATIENT CARE EDUCATION & RESEARCH INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT CMC | | | |
| **AROUND UTMB** (Use the legend above to quickly find items of interest to your team) | | | | |
| **Celebrating Black History Month, Feb. 1-28**:  In recognition of Black History Month, the Black Alliance Employee Resource Group would like to highlight the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston this week for opening the state’s first state-subsidized “Negro” hospital in 1902. Prior to the hospital’s opening, Black patients were treated in the department for “Negro” patients in Galveston’s old City Hospital building, which was operated by UTMB. Many Black citizens and organizations, including St. Monica Society of Holy Rosary Church, Calton Screwmen Longshoremen Association No. 2 and Acme Lodge No. 64, helped furnish the new hospital by raising $574.85 in donations. The hospital consisted of an administration building, two large charity wards for male and female patients and private rooms and served as a refuge for many Black Houstonians. While other hospitals denied people of color, UTMB became a place for Black people to acquire the health services they needed and later became a leader in desegregation within its medical school. For more information about UTMB’s Black History Month events and how you can get involved in the Black Alliance Employee Resource Group, please see <https://www.utmb.edu/hr/diversity/black-alliance-resource-group>.  **The Joint Commission Questions of the Week—Focus on blanket warmers:**  **Q: Are you required to keep a temperature log on blanket warmers?**  **A:** No, but you need to have a “Blanket Warmer Action Log” on all blanket warmers. However, if you have a fluid warmer, such as a warmer for irrigation pour bottles or for lactated ringers/dakins/irrigation fluid bags, you must conduct temperature monitoring and record daily on a temperature log. All forms are available for download at <https://intranet.utmb.edu/qhs/the-joint-commission>.    **Q: Can you mix fluids and blankets in the same warmer?**  **A:** No. Blankets and fluids should be warmed in separate, dedicated compartments with separate heating elements and temperature controls.    **Q: What is the maximum temperature on blanket warmers?**  **A:** The maximum temperature for warming blankets is 150°F or 65°C.  For more information, refer to the Institutional Handbook of Operating Procedures Policy [09.13.40](https://www.utmb.edu/policies_and_procedures/IHOP/Clinical/General_Clinical_Procedures_and_Care/IHOP%20-%2009.13.40%20-%20Blanket%20and%20Fluid%20Warmer%20Operating%20Temperatures.pdf) Blanket and Fluid Warmer Operating Temperature.    **Congratulations to Dr. Deborah J. Jones**:  Deborah J. Jones, PhD, RN, senior vice president and dean of the School of Nursing, has been elected to a two-year term as a board member at-large for the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN). Votes were cast by member deans from the nation’s nursing schools with baccalaureate and higher degree programs. Dr. Jones has taught across all nursing program levels, led substantial curricula development and revision, and conducted extensive research in the areas of oral health and moral distress.  In addition to her leadership roles in the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses over the last 20 years, she has served on the boards of multiple professional organizations, is a Fellow in the Leadership for Academic Nursing Program, is a member of AACN’s Diversity & Inclusion and Membership Committees and is a champion for advancing holistic admissions review in nursing. Congratulations, Dr. Jones.  **Congratulations to Dr. Rebeca Wong**:  Rebeca Wong, PhD, professor and vice chair of research in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Population Health, has been invited by the chair of the NIH Council of Councils to join a newly formed working group of the Council on Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (BSSR) Integration. This special advisory panel of behavioral scientists and other community experts was convened to complete an assessment and provide recommendations on how to better integrate and realize the benefits to overall health from behavioral research at NIH. We are proud of Dr. Wong’s contributions and congratulate her on this honor and opportunity. | | | **Weekly Wellness Recap:**  Shared by the UTMB RISE (Resilience in Stressful Events) Task Force, these tips are just one way we can all work to stay emotionally healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are this week’s tips:   * Read something educational today to enhance your brain. * Build a reward into changing a difficult habit to boost motivation. * Write a gratitude message or letter to someone today. * Try deep listening today to find the shared humanity in someone who may seem different. * Give yourself a pep talk today. * Reflect on a close relationship that brings you joy. * Reflect on your moments of productivity and connection today.   **COVID-19 Novel coronavirus updates-Vaccine edition**  **Current vaccination program status:**   * Focus of vaccination program remains on Phase 1A (health care workers) and Phase 1B (high-risk individuals), consistent with state guidelines. * Visit [www.utmb.edu/vaccine](http://www.utmb.edu/vaccine) for information on the vaccine waitlist. * Employees who missed their appointment for the second dose should reschedule by emailing Employee Health at [emphlthc@utmb.edu](mailto:emphlthc@utmb.edu) with “COVID Vaccine Dose 2” as the subject line. * The UTMB COVID-19 Vaccine Update for Patients website has now been translated into Spanish. Visit <https://www.utmb.edu/covid-19/vaccine/spanish>.   **Recent COVID-19 Clinical Task Force messages**   * See the [Feb. 5 COVID-19 Clinical Task Force message](http://intranet.utmb.edu/iutmb/article/2021/02/05/from-the-covid-19-clinical-task-force-updated-meeting-room-capacity-limits) regarding an update to meeting room capacity limits. | |
| **DID YOU KNOW?** All four UTMB schools have been involved in COVID-19 vaccine initiatives in various capacities. Students and faculty members across the schools have worked with the Galveston County Health District and Galveston County Office of Emergency Management, as well as UTMB ambulatory clinics and Student Health, to fulfill medical and non-medical volunteer positions. Those with the appropriate training have administered vaccines, while others have served as greeters, escorts and traffic control, and have observed individuals post-vaccine for reactions. As one measure of the schools’ involvement, since Dec. 16, 105 students and 46 faculty members from the School of Nursing have volunteered more than 1,200 hours toward vaccination efforts for UTMB employees, students and members of the community. Their work is ongoing and will continue as needed. This is a valuable opportunity for our students to receive real-world experience and help meet an important need in our community. Great work by all! | |