

March 15, 2021



Moment Of Triumph – After 133 Days Patient Wins COVID Battle

On Oct. 28, 2020 Javier Gutierrez was admitted to UMC for symptoms of COVID-19 which would keep him hospitalized for over 4 months – 133 days to be exact. However, this past Wednesday, Javier was able to breathe fresh air and feel daylight on his skin.



UMC's Skywalk is filled with support and cheers of happiness as Javier exits after 133 days

Followed by his wife, Ana Gutierrez, as Javier is escorted out of UMC, the hallways were filled with more than 200 employees cheering and shouting words of encouragement for his victorious battle with COVID-19. After Javier left the hospital, Nurses, Physicians, and clinical staff that cared for him through his tenure hugged

and embraced one another congratulating and telling each other “we did it, we saved him.”

Even with the odds not in his favor, the 48-year old is on his way to making a full recovery, ultimately allowing him to be discharged to a rehabilitation center before heading home.

“We give many thanks for all the care we have received from UMC and all the doctors and nurses,” said Ana, with tears in her eyes. “We are very thankful for all the support and are beyond grateful for UMC and their dedication to my husband.”

Thank you to all the staff who cared for Javier and lined the hallways to celebrate his victory over COVID-19.

CEO Sends Message To All Staff: Wearing A Mask Continues

As you may be aware, a statewide mandate for wearing a mask is being lifted, by directive of Texas Governor Greg Abbott. This will affect millions of people, thousands of businesses and hundreds of communities that have helped reduce the rate of infection through mask wear.

As a hospital, we are particularly aware of the continued importance that must be placed on wearing a mask until we are through this pandemic.

Hospitals throughout Texas are united in the continued enforcement of strict masking requirements to enter our hospitals as the pandemic continues. This is a requirement that we will adhere to for the foreseeable future. At UMC, we have a particularly clear awareness of how beneficial wearing a mask is in containing the spread of COVID-19. We cannot and will not stop now, especially when we have come so far over the last year.

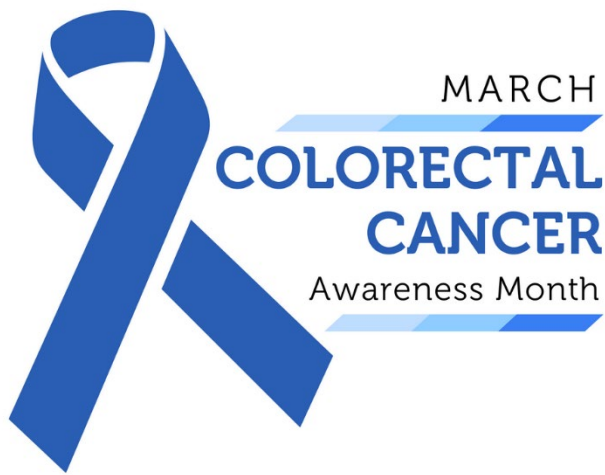
That is why UMC joins with Texas hospitals to ensure that the safe practices we have relied upon will continue, including wearing a mask, until many more Texans have been vaccinated. For these reasons and the continued safety of our patients, families and associates, mask wear remains an ongoing requirement throughout our El Paso County Hospital District.

Thank you for all you continue to do to protect your fellow Associates, all those around you, and our community.

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month – Q & A Health Check With UMC’s Gastroenterologist Dr. Carmela Morales

Every March, awareness is brought to colorectal cancer and the prevention and opportunities patients have to catch early signs of colon cancer. Colorectal cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the US for men and women. However, many colorectal cancers can be prevented or caught early, when they might be easier to treat. That’s why getting screened is so important.





UMC's Dr. Carmela Morales, is one of the region's top gastroenterologists and recently spoke about the importance of colorectal cancer awareness and getting a colonoscopy during UMC's Health Check's.

“Colon cancer in the United States is one of the most common internal malignancies and in most patient’s colon cancer can harbor in the gut for many years so symptoms do not become apparent until it is too late” said Dr. Morales. “Getting a colonoscopy allows gastroenterologist to catch any precancerous signs of colon cancer.”

UMC has the most advanced Digestive Health Center in the region. UMC is home to the most comprehensive/complete digestive health team of surgeons and specialists located anywhere in the southwest. For the entire Health Check video, please visit any of our social media platforms: Facebook, Instagram and Twitter or you can watch it on YouTube with the following link <https://youtu.be/n83MvK0pztK>



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