On Nov. 23, Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health launched a self-serve food pantry to support employees and their families who may be facing food insecurity — a growing challenge for some families in the face of the hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The LG Pantry, open three days a week at designated LG Health locations, provides a pre-packed bag of shelf-stable food items to employees in need. Each bag is filled with a day’s worth of food (breakfast, lunch, dinner and a snack) for approximately four people.

“As we continue to face the uncertainties that the COVID-19 pandemic brings, it’s important to my fellow leaders and me that our LG Health employees feel supported at work and at home,” said Jan L. Bergen, president and chief executive officer, LG Health.

Collection of food items donated by fellow LG Health leaders and employees began in mid-November, with drop-off crates placed in four LG Health locations. The bags of food are assembled by employees from the Human Resources Department. Donations of grocery store gift cards are also welcome and will be used to stock the pantry.

Employees experiencing a need can conveniently and discreetly stop by one of three LG Pantry locations to pick up a bag.

“Each day, we strive to demonstrate our commitment to our patients, community and team members. The addition of the LG Pantry brings together our personal investment as colleagues and community members, while answering the potential need employees may be facing,” Bergen said.

Employees may also contact Human Resources to arrange pickup. Additional information about the LG Pantry, including hours, locations, pick-up process and a shopping list of preferred items can be found on StarNet or by contacting Samantha O’Hara, supervisor, Engagement & Recognition.

Non-perishable food items and grocery gift cards can be dropped off at:
- Lancaster General Hospital Employee Service Center (across pedestrian bridge)
- Suburban Pavilion Wellness Center (2nd Floor)
- Women & Babies Hospital Main Employee Entrance
- BRIDLE Human Resources (1st Floor Lobby)

I am excited to announce the winners of Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health’s 2020 CEO Award — as well as our first-ever Live Your Legacy Awards. Both of these awards celebrate our colleagues for their exceptional work and honor the legacy they are building at LG Health.

CEO Award
The CEO Award, which is LG Health’s highest institutional honor, recognizes teams for achieving extraordinary results that impact patients, colleagues and the entire health system. The winning projects reflect a strong commitment to our Mission and Vision, as well as the principles of continuous improvement and high reliability.

Implementation of Large-Scale COVID-19 Community Testing Sites
This truly multidisciplinary group of highly talented individuals from throughout the health system stood up our first two community testing sites within a matter of days. The team’s work then transitioned to establishing embedded testing in sites throughout the community. A huge congratulations to everyone involved in this project. You did an extraordinary job!

Live Your Legacy Award
The Live Your Legacy Award honors individuals or teams for delivering truly extraordinary service excellence. The winners’ actions, accomplishments and attitude demonstrate their passion, commitment and best for our patients, colleagues and/or the community.

Sue Lackmann
Sue, a Health Promotion Specialist with the Community Health and Wellness Team, demonstrates our values, as well as the Penn Medicine “BE” Standards. Sue’s extraordinary work benefits not only LG Health but many organizations in the community. She is a wonderful role model for the culture and values of this organization. Congratulations, Sue!

Employee Health COVID-19 Call Center Team
The call center was staffed by employees redeployed from roles elsewhere, who arrived eager to help their colleagues affected by COVID-19. Even as their roles evolved continuously, the team remained flexible and positive, while always keeping the employee experience top of mind. Please congratulate this team and let them know how proud you are of their work.

Our CEO and Live Your Legacy award winners represent just a few examples of the heroic work that goes on every day throughout LG Health. You can read much more about the winners on StarNet.

Please join me in congratulating our award winners!
Collaborating on COVID-19 Pronation Therapy

Team Approach Enhances Safety & Efficiency of Life-Saving Program

Nurse anesthetists and surgical techs at Penn Medicine Lancaster General Hospital recently joined the team of ICU nurses and respiratory therapists performing pronation therapy on critically ill COVID-19 patients in the ICU and Neuro/Trauma Unit.

Proning is for patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and involves placing the patient on their stomach for 12–16 hours to better oxygenate the lungs. It requires a team of providers working in sync to ensure the patient is safely positioned — in order to prevent pressure sores and protect the airway. Patients are later supinated, or placed on their backs, once again.

"Most of these patients are on ventilators or have IV or central lines, tubes and drains that must remain intact," said Bill Burger, CRNA, nurse anesthesia manager.

At the start of the pandemic in the spring, intensive care unit (ICU) and respiratory therapy staff maintained responsibility for proning and supinating patients. With the recent increase in COVID-19 admissions in late fall, the nurse anesthesia team stepped in to help.

"Our team has been challenged like never before, but the selfless support of our colleagues has given us the lift we needed to rise to the occasion," said Matthew Pavlichko, MS, RRT-NPS, director, Respiratory Care and Pulmonary Diagnostics.

The proning team comes together twice a day to turn all patients with orders for pronation therapy. They coordinate their timing with X-ray technicians, who then scan each patient to confirm that all tubes and lines are in place.

"This is a true collaboration of all teams to make a labor-intensive procedure as efficient and safe as possible," said Aimee Anderson, MSN, RN, CCRN, ICU nurse manager.

For more than 20 years, LG Health Physicians Comprehensive Care has been a trusted place in the community for patients with HIV/AIDS to receive high-quality, compassionate care. This fall, the practice expanded its services to include free, walk-in testing for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) 4:30 to 8 p.m. Mondays. The clinic is available to anyone in the community who wishes to be tested or needs treatment for an STD.

"Our clinic offers confidential testing, treatment and counseling services by a bilingual (English and Spanish) team that is caring and non-judgmental. We welcome anyone into our clinic who wishes to be tested or needs treatment for an STD."

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The STD clinic includes testing for syphilis, HIV, chlamydia, gonorrhea, hepatitis and more. The clinic also offers PrEP, a prescription medication that can help prevent HIV in people who are at high risk for acquiring the virus.

Testing is open to anyone who is sexually active and is free of cost, regardless of insurance coverage. This includes individuals who have no insurance or are under-insured.

"By offering a safe and convenient way to get tested, we hope to encourage more patients to take this important step in protecting their own health, that of their partner(s), and our community," Carr Reese said.

Comprehensive Care is located at 554 N. Duke Street, 3rd Floor. For more information, visit LGHealth.org/GetTested or call 717-544-4943.

FREE Walk-In Clinic for STD Testing

COVID-19 VACCINE ARRIVES AT LG HEALTH

I GOT THE SHOT

Joseph Kontra, MD, chief of Infectious Diseases at Lancaster General Hospital, was the first to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at the hospital Dec. 17. Other frontline employees from the Emergency Department, Trauma, ICU, Labor & Delivery, Phlebotomy, Environmental Services, and Respiratory Therapy were vaccinated as well.

Click here to download the LG Experience.