LiveWell

CHRISTUS SOUTHEAST TEXAS Health System

Live Well
DEAR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS,

I hope this note finds you and your family safe and adjusting to the unprecedented challenges we are all facing. At CHRISTUS, we have been working nonstop to ensure we are providing safe care to all who we are privileged to serve.

This year has been one filled with great challenges and lots of uncertainty, but also one in which we have seen tremendous teamwork and ingenuity. As COVID-19 descended upon our nation and its presence was felt in Southeast Texas, we immediately began to take action to adjust our operations. This could not have happened without the unwavering commitment of our Associates to continue to provide compassionate, high-quality health care in the face of an ever-changing environment. To every Associate in our ministry and the healthcare professionals throughout Southeast Texas, you are no doubt our community’s heroes in so many ways.

This special issue of LiveWell is dedicated to all things related to COVID-19. In this issue, you will read about our health system’s response to COVID-19, the practices that continue to be in place, as well as what the future holds in our response to this unprecedented event in health care.

We will hear from a surgical patient who had his surgery delayed due to COVID-19, who says that he is grateful for the safe return of elective surgeries. This issue will also shine light on the COVID-19 Safe Care Program and antibody testing, both of which have allowed for surgical procedures to resume.

This issue will also highlight our Associates. A special, “Heroes in Action” page will feature photos and inspirational quotes from our CHRISTUS Southeast Texas Health System health care heroes, who were never deterred in their quest to provide the absolute best in health care service to our community.

Finally, this issue will feature a section thanking our wonderful community. From yard signs to sidewalk chalk, inspirational messages both online and in-person, and too many free meals to count — our friends and neighbors throughout Southeast Texas have been the force that has kept our Associates going through these tough times.

We all have much to be thankful for as we move into the summer months and beyond. There are many great things on the horizon as we continue to see our community come together in love and solidarity. We are excited about what is to come and are grateful for the many Associates, Medical Staff members and Volunteers who will make this one of the most memorable years in our history.

Blessings to you and your family,

Paul Trevino
President and CEO
CHRISTUS Southeast Texas Health System

Visit christushealth.org/safe for COVID-19 information.

CHRISTUS Southeast Texas Health System complies with applicable federal civil rights law and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability or sex. For more information, please go to http://www.christussetx.org/nondiscrimination-notice.

ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística.

CHÚ Y: Nếu bạn nói Tiếng Việt, có các dịch vụ hỗ trợ ngôn ngữ miễn phí dành cho bạn.
Back in the Saddle Again

When our doors re-opened for elective surgery, John Shackelford was first in line to get his painful shoulder treated.

John is a very active ranch owner, who rodeos, loves life and was ready to get back to it. He has owned and operated a business in Beaumont for 30 years and lived in Nome, Texas, about 12 years. Not one for sitting still, he bought the ranch to keep busy.

“One day, I picked up my .410 shotgun, a little gun, to shoot a snake,” he says. “I shot the snake, but when I went to eject the shell, that movement dropped me to my knees.”

John went to see Gene P. Isabell, Jr., M.D., Orthopedic Surgeon at CHRISTUS Southeast Texas Orthopedic Specialty Center and Beaumont Bone and Joint Institute because he knew something was really wrong with his shoulder.

“Dr. Isabell first gave me injections in both shoulders,” John says “Then, he explained one of the tendons was torn really bad and I needed surgery.”

**Surgery During COVID-19**

John’s surgery was paused with other elective procedures when statewide, the focus was on treatment of COVID-19.

“When I heard our governor was allowing elective surgery again, I got on the phone right away to reschedule,” John says. “I was one of the first in the door.”

Every surgical patient at CHRISTUS Southeast Texas has laboratory work completed ahead of surgery, which includes COVID-19 antibody testing. One thing John noticed the morning he arrived for his surgery was how clean everything smelled. That and how the CHRISTUS Southeast Texas team treated him like a king while he was under their care.

“Every 30 minutes, someone came around to wipe down surfaces and door handles with disinfectant,” John says. “People asked why don’t you want to go to Houston, and I said ‘I know Dr. Isabell and know he’ll take care of me.’ And they did.”

**Worth the Wait**

Since the surgery, John says that the difference has been night and day.

“I’ve been here for two other surgeries that went great. After my shoulder surgery, I felt a difference the minute I woke up,” John says. “I had zero pain after surgery, and I have not had any pain since. Don’t sit around in pain. Get up and come in.”

**COVID-19 Hospital Policies**

CHRISTUS Southeast Texas has implemented the following process to provide a COVID-19 safe surgical environment and keep all patients and staff safe.

- No visitors are allowed.
- Everyone who comes through the door is screened for COVID-19.
- Temperature checks are performed for all Associates.
- Everyone on campus is required to wear a mask.
- Constant and uncompromising attention is paid to disinfecting and cleaning.

At CHRISTUS Southeast Texas and Beaumont Bone & Joint Institute, we successfully practice infection prevention every day because the safety of our patients, Associates and physicians is our top priority. Visit christushealth.org/services-treatments/bone-joint to learn more about orthopedic treatment options.

Summer 2020 | christussetx.org
“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Isaiah 41:10

COVID-19 has changed the world as we know it in many ways, but our commitment to caring for our community is just as strong, just as fierce, as it was when CHRISTUS Southeast Texas Health System opened its doors 90 years ago. Then and now, our ministry continues to be a safe place for all to receive quality care. While COVID-19 is new, our processes and procedures in place for infection prevention and preventing the spread of illness are not. From physicians and nurses, quality and safety experts to those responsible for ordering supplies and keeping the hospital clean — all of our Associates are involved in making sure we provide a safe environment for our patients. Every single day.

We understand the need for social distancing and taking steps to limit risk of exposure to COVID-19. However, it is still important to put your health first and seek the care you need, especially in the case of an emergency. Call your doctor when you are sick, keep your annual screening appointments and most importantly, don’t ignore signs of a serious condition, like a heart attack or stroke. We are here and we are ready to care for you no matter what.

While executive orders from Gov. Greg Abbott may have temporarily postponed surgeries and procedures, CHRISTUS Southeast Texas Health System was the first in Southeast Texas to safely resume surgical services. Many of our patients waited long enough for their procedure, so we did and continue to do everything we can to get them rescheduled as quickly and safely as possible.
SAFETY FIRST
The safety of our patients, Associates and physicians is our top priority. That’s why we successfully practice infection prevention every day. We have added the following extra precautions to keep all who enter our facilities safe during COVID-19:

- Limited visitors
- Screening everyone who comes through our doors
- Isolating COVID-19 patients in the facility
- Temperature checks for Associates
- Requiring everyone on our campuses to wear masks

CHRISTUS HEALTH OFFERS ‘GAME CHANGER’ ANTIBODIES TEST FOR COVID-19
CHRISTUS Southeast Texas Health System is first in the Southeast Texas community to offer new screening tool.
CHRISTUS Health announced in April it is now offering a new screening tool to some patients, as well as doctors, nurses and other CHRISTUS Associates on the front lines to learn who has been infected with COVID-19 — AND — who might now carry protective antibodies.

“CHRISTUS Health is a safe place to receive care, with high-reliability processes and procedures for infection prevention and mitigating the spread of illness,” explained Sam Bagchi, M.D., CHRISTUS Health’s EVP and Chief Clinical Officer. “We have added the unprecedented additional layer of antibody screening to help survey for asymptomatic COVID-19 infections among patients and caregivers.”

After the team quickly assessed the test’s reliability, they then deployed the kits to CHRISTUS hospitals and ambulatory sites across the United States and Latin America. The test produces results in approximately 10 minutes and has been validated internally for screening for COVID-19 infections.

“CHRISTUS is the first in our communities, and is leading the nation by using advanced COVID-19 antibody testing to screen people in our facilities to determine if they have had a COVID-19 infection in the past or have one now,” says Dave Benner, PharmD, MS, MHA, FACHE, Vice President, Clinical Ancillary Services.

The country’s leading scientists believe antibody-based tests to be essential in the war against COVID-19.

CHRISTUS first began using the test on Associates and caregivers on the front lines. The rapid screening tool will also be used on hospitalized patients that the clinical team believes may have been infected with COVID-19 as well as patients who are scheduled for surgery.

“People should not put off urgent and emergent procedures, and should continue to seek the care they need. We know that, regardless of COVID-19, heart attacks and strokes have not stopped. We need to be able to treat people who urgently need to be in an operating room,” says Dr. Bagchi. “With the availability of an antibody test, we can test anyone who comes in for surgery. This will allow us to reliably know if a patient has COVID-19 before they start having symptoms or might normally be tested.”

This innovative screening solution is in an addition to the ongoing polymerase chain reaction or PCR tests many providers, including CHRISTUS, are able to perform. PCR is the current FDA-approved test for diagnosing patients with COVID-19.

WE’RE IN THIS TOGETHER
This may be an unprecedented time, but we have experienced many of these since CHRISTUS was founded 154 years ago. In fact, the first three Sisters who started our ministry in Galveston faced an epidemic of yellow fever within the first six months of opening the very first hospital.

Epidemics and tragedies have been part of our history, and so too has the resolve, after each of those challenges, to move on in love and service to those in need. We stand today in a rich history that gives us confidence that, with God’s help, we can do the same.

We are answering the call to help our community – today and tomorrow. In all that we do, we are devoted to keeping you, your families, our caregivers and our Associates safe. And we are here when you need care. We are ready.

The three Sisters who started our ministry in Galveston faced a yellow fever epidemic within the first six months of opening.
Associate Heroes in Action

CHRISTUS Southeast Texas Associates have never wavered in their mission to provide the absolute best in health care through the first difficult months of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

“My surgery family continues to amaze and surprise me. I’ve seen staff literally step in and be family for those who cannot have visitors with them at this time. From texting and talking with outside family to praying with and holding the hands of these patients, our surgery family, including all the staff, physicians and anesthesia, has shined so very brightly during this crisis.”

— Shawna Melvin, RN

“I am truly honored to be a CHRISTUS St. Elizabeth COVID-19 nurse and part of this incredible team. Our facility has gone above and beyond to keep us safe, informed and with the appropriate PPE available to us at all times. Because of this, my teammates and I have peace of mind and security while we focus all our efforts on saving the lives of those entrusted in our care — it is truly a great time to be a nurse.”

— Sunshine Murphy, RN

“Each and every hospital employee is a hero in their own right. I consider it a blessing to work alongside such wonderful doctors and nurses, and it has been an honor and a privilege to be at the bedside while these patients face the toughest times of their lives.”

— Jillian Plaia Citrano, Registered Respiratory Therapist
Thank You,

SOUTHEAST TEXAS

From yard signs to sidewalk chalk, inspirational messages both online and in-person, and too many free meals to count — thank you to our friends and neighbors throughout Southeast Texas who have been the force that has kept our Associates going through these tough times.

100 Black Men of Greater Beaumont
5Point Credit Union
Acadian Ambulance Service
All Saints Episcopal School
Alliance Medical Services
Americares
Anayat House
Argent Trust Company
Asset Alliance Group, LTD
Avalon Place
Auon – Brittany Parks
Beaumont Yard Greetings
Becky Neeb
Boy Scouts of America – Three Rivers Council
Cardiovascular Foundation of Southeast Texas
Carl & Lori Griffith – Griffith, Moseley, Johnson
Carole Hart Family
Cheuron Phillips – Erin Peltier
Chick-fil-A
Colorado Canyon
Common Cents Credit Union
Cornerstone Baptist Church – Kountze
Crestwood Baptist Church
Dairy Queen – Jasper
Danette Alford
Dauiss Donuts & Deli
Dr. “Happy” Alagarsamy
Dr. Premsuarup Joel Immaraj
DuGood Federal Credit Union – Jasper
Dylan’s Restaurant – Port Arthur
Earl Family
Education First Federal Credit Union
ExxonMobil
Family Pharmacy
Felix Rodriguez
First Assembly of God – Jasper First
Pentecostal Church – Silsbee
Ford Motor Company
Fuzzy’s Taco Shop
Gateway Mortgage Group
Genie West, retired CHRISTUS RN
Giglio Distributing
Girls Scout Troop 3639 – Bridge City
Golden Triangle Republican Women
GoodRx
Great China Restaurant
Gregory Carlson
Harbor Home Health
Harbor Hospice
Harvest Church – Jasper
H-E-B Port Arthur
Hillcrest Baptist Church – Jasper
Home Depot
Jan Fontanoza
Jason’s Deli – Bridgett Bourne
Jason’s Deli – Joey & Shelley Tortorice
Jay Daniel
Jessica Ferrell Family
John Riedmueller
Jonathan Morgan’s Mother-In-Law
Jordan Reese
Judge Mitch Templeton
Junior League of Beaumont
KAT Excavation & Construction, Inc.
Krystal Smith
Lamar State College – Port Arthur
Lamar University
Little Caesars – Jasper
Luke Nichols
M & D Supply
Maloney Family
Michael Soto Contractors
Mid-Jefferson Extended Care Hospital
Mike Roebuck – Echo Maintenance
Mobiloil Credit Union
Montebello Home Care
Oceans Healthcare
PAM Rehabilitation Hospital of Beaumont
Panda Express
Papa John’s Pizza – Jasper
Pat Chamblin
Paul Gardner & Daughters
Pinewood Community Members
Port Arthur Independent School District
Pulse Homecare
RE/MAX ONE
Rebecca Byerly
Regency Integrated Health Services
Russ Waddill
Salata
Serenity Assisted Care Living
SETX Yard Signs
SouthEast Texas Regional Advisory Council
Southern Home Health
St. Paul United Methodist Church
Subway – Jasper
SYNERGY HomeCare
Texas Department of Agriculture
Texas Farm Credit
TexJoy
The Baker’s Man – Houston
The Horn Foundation
Therese Porter
Thrive Family Chiropractic & Nutrition
Todd Moss Family
Triumph Church – Pastors Randy & Renee’ Clark
Victory Temple
Vidor ISD Students
War Horse Industrial
Westin Mortgage Group
World’s Finest Chocolate – Mike & Judy Gallier

Thank you to all the unsung heroes of this crisis. If we missed anyone, please accept our apologies. Every effort was made to include all contributions.
Get the care you need. Now.

There's more to your health than this virus. That's why we're here.

From working to protect against exposure to COVID-19 to offering more telemedicine appointments, we're keeping our hospital safe so that you can get the important care you need. In addition, we're leading the country with COVID-19 antibody testing to select hospital patients, so we'll know quickly how to treat you safely.

Get the care, and safety, you need at CHRISTUS.