

NURSING

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

Transforming patient care through professional practice

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A newsletter
from the office
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Chief Nursing
Officer

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NURSES BEGIN COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

Vanderbilt University Medical Center began vaccinating its front-line caregivers for COVID-19 on Dec. 17.

VUMC hosted an event with Gov. Bill Lee and Commissioner of Health Lisa Piercey, MD, on the Medical Center campus. Lee praised VUMC for its role in caring for COVID-19 patients.

“Thank you for the role Vanderbilt has played throughout this pandemic and thanks to you, in particular, those of you who are here today that will be the first recipients of vaccine and represent hundreds, if not thousands, of front-line workers who have poured your lives into serving people in this state,” he said.

“It is very true that today is a hopeful day. People have called this a shot of hope, and we celebrate what is a historic moment and turning point in this pandemic.”

Robin Steaban, MSN, RN, Chief Nursing Officer for Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital, vaccinated five COVID-19 front-line workers on the day the vaccine arrived. Those who received the first doses of the Pfizer vaccine include Tesha Akins, environmental technician; Lisa Flemmons, MSN, acute care nurse practitioner; Sophie Whitaker, regis-

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Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season with your families.

We are beginning 2021 with a great sense of hope. We began rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine to our nursing workforce last month, and it continues at a brisk pace. You can read more about it in this issue.

So many have sacrificed so much over the last year, and it is incredibly gratifying that a safe and effective vaccine is now available. Thanks to all who are working to vaccinate ultimately tens of thousands of VUMC

employees.

Also in this issue, we honor our biggest class of quarterly DAISY Award recipients ever — seven nurses throughout our entities — for the fourth quarter of 2020. It is my pleasure to honor this wonderful group of people. Please join me in congratulating them on a job well done.

Enjoy this issue,

NURSES BEGIN COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

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tered respiratory therapist; Cody Hamilton, RN; and Todd Rice, MD, associate professor of Medicine in Allergy, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine and director of the Medical ICU.

Mass vaccinations of the VUMC workforce began the following day. The Medical Center's COVID-19 vaccination plan calls for front-line physicians, nurses and staff, such as those who work with confirmed COVID-19 patients during each shift, to have the first opportunity to receive the vaccine. Through a tiered plan, VUMC's goal is to vaccinate its entire workforce as additional supplies of vaccine become available.

The vaccinations follow approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) advisory committee for emergency use authorization for the COVID-19 vaccine created by Pfizer, followed by the approval by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The Pfizer vaccine being administered at VUMC is the first to be approved for use in the United States. A second vaccine, from Moderna, is also in the final stages of approval and is expected to be available soon. Both require a first shot and a booster at a later date to be fully effective. Clinical trials showed both vaccines have a 95% success rate.

"This is a really exciting day for us. While taking care of people who are sick is really important, we've known for a long time that the way we get out of this pandemic is by preventing people from getting sick and ever getting the disease. The way to do that is through vaccination with an effective vaccine and that process starts for us today in Tennessee. It's not just the front-line providers who need to get vaccinated; it's the population to make this go away," Rice said. "We know what our task is. It's time to roll up our sleeves and get to it."



Tesha Akins receives VUMC's first COVID-19 vaccination from Robin Steaban, MSN, RN, NEA-BC on Dec. 17.



Robin Steaban, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, looks on as, from left, Lisa Flemmons, MSN, Todd Rice, MD, Cody Hamilton, BSN, RN, and Sophie Whitaker pose for a photo after receiving their COVID-19 vaccinations on Dec. 17.



April Hanlotxomphou, APRN, gets the COVID-19 vaccine from Jennifer Mitchell on the first day VUMC front-line employees could receive the vaccine on Dec. 18.

SPOTLIGHT ON DAISY AWARD RECIPIENTS



Crystal Bojniewicz, RN

Unit: Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)

Entity: Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt



From the nomination: "She was taking care of a patient whose mother did not speak English (spoke a dialect of Swahili) and went out of her way to help the mom through the NICU process. ... She was concerned the mom wouldn't ask for help ordering food and placed dietary communications for the entire week for this mother to get her meals. She also has coordinated with multiple interpreters to make sure this mother's questions were answered and so she could feel supported. Crystal has gone above and beyond today and truly showed the meaning of family-centered care!"



Maddie Cullen, BSN, RN

Unit: Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU)

Entity: Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital

From the nomination: "My dad came to the hospital with plans for a double lung transplant but due to his other body systems failing, he's now on a palliative care route. She (Maddie) made it possible for him and his fiancée to have a commitment ceremony in his room, complete with decorations, cupcakes, "champagne" toasts, flowers, and even hand-made a veil out of streamers for his fiancée."

SPOTLIGHT ON DAISY AWARD RECIPIENTS

Claudia Davis, MSN, RN

Unit: Adult 3

Entity: Vanderbilt Psychiatric Hospital

From the nomination: "I got sick in the middle of the night. Claudia came to my aid and got me some medicine from the doctor on call. She was wonderful to me and I couldn't have gotten through the night without her!"



Mason Dobson, LPN

Unit: Medical Infusion Clinic

Entity: Vanderbilt Adult Ambulatory Clinics

From the nomination: "I was taking chemo and it was the second or third time I had ever been there. I was incredibly scared. ... When I met Mason I immediately felt calmer. She has this way of making you feel safe. Once it was hot and my port was having trouble accessing and normally this would have scared me, but Mason had it under control."

Meredith Nolan, RN

Unit: Vanderbilt Eye Institute

Entity: Vanderbilt Adult Ambulatory Clinics

From the nomination: The patient "stated that he had called in on Wednesday about some issue with his eye and while speaking to the nurse (Meredith), she urged him based on his symptoms to go to the emergency room. Which he had been reluctant to do. He then stated that while at the hospital they had determined he was having a stroke and how she had saved his life. He stated that he was beyond grateful for her knowledge and encouragement to go to the emergency room because he had been out mowing and wasn't sure about the severity. If it wasn't for her explanation he may not have taken it seriously enough to go the hospital."



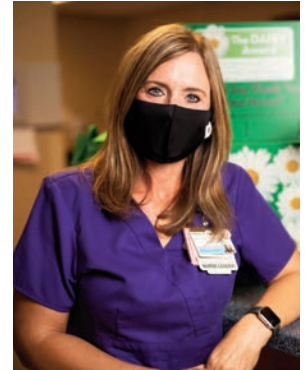
SPOTLIGHT ON DAISY AWARD RECIPIENTS

Lindsay Race, BSN, RN

Unit: Labor & Delivery

Entity: Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital

From the nomination: “Lindsay was my nurse on day shift that took care of me like my mother would as well. Any time I needed anything, she was there to help. I was crying because, after being in labor so long, I was told I was having a C-section. I understood but was extremely scared. Lindsay made me feel right at home and took me under her wing as a mother would do that day.”



Mary “Cricket” Ramsey

Unit: Labor & Delivery

Entity: Vanderbilt University Adult Hospital

From the nomination: “Cricket examined the patient and found a prolapsed fetal cord. In the OB world this is a true emergency where the baby has literally minutes to be delivered via emergency C-section to prevent long term damage and possibly death. ... I have been an L&D nurse at Vanderbilt for 27 years and this patient was the calmest patient I have ever witnessed in an emergency situation. I truly believe she remained calm because of the trust she had in Cricket and Cricket's quiet, calm, reassuring words.”



WANT TO NOMINATE A NURSE?

Scan the QR code or go to www.VUMCDAISY.com.

