



Providing easy access to flu shots.

MedStar Harbor Hospital has long encouraged flu shots to protect members of the community from the seasonal flu.

"The flu is a highly contagious respiratory illness that can cause serious complications among individuals who are at high risk, including those who are older or have chronic health conditions," says Chris Roberge, RN, MS, patient safety and performance improvement manager at the hospital. "Since many people residing in the community around us fall into those categories, we try to make it easy for them to get the seasonal flu shot."

In October 2019, MedStar Harbor held its free annual drive-thru flu vaccination clinic on the hospital campus. During the event, clinicians administered 159 seasonal flu vaccines.

"While the flu shot does not guarantee a person won't get the flu, it may make it milder if someone does get it," Roberge explains. "So, we were pleased that so many individuals took advantage of our program. In fact, we plan to hold this event every year to prevent the spread of the flu and flu-related hospitalizations."

"The flu is a highly contagious respiratory illness that can cause serious complications among individuals who are at high risk." —Chris Roberge, RN, MS

Letter from the president.

At MedStar Harbor Hospital, our goal is to be a true community resource and a positive force for good. It gives me great pride to present this 2020 Report to the Community, which highlights two initiatives designed to make it easier for area residents to access the resources needed to live better lives; flu vaccinations and the diagnosis and treatment of HIV.

Addressing the needs of our community is at the heart of what we do—work we could not do without the support of so many of you. On behalf of MedStar Harbor, thank you.

Sincerely,

Jill Donaldson, FACHE
President
MedStar Harbor Hospital
Senior Vice President,
MedStar Health

Working to end HIV.

While HIV is declining nationally, Maryland had an infection rate of 18.6 per 100,000 people at the end of 2019, with Baltimore having the highest number of diagnoses. It is estimated that thousands of people with HIV remain undiagnosed. At MedStar Harbor, ensuring that individuals infected with HIV are diagnosed and linked to treatment is the goal of its rapid HIV testing program.



"I provide free HIV tests to patients who visit the emergency department for care," explains Justice Koskei, a former nurse turned community health advocate. "These tests are offered to all patients. I approach each patient, explain what my role is, and ask for their permission to perform the test."

A collaboration with the Baltimore City Health Department, the test involves a simple oral swab that is quick; getting the results takes just 20 minutes. Patients who screen positive are connected to medical care and support programs.

Not surprisingly, many patients are willing to take the free test. "I had one individual who thought he might be infected who was happy to learn that he was negative," Justice says. "I encouraged him to get tested again in three months, counseled him on ways to avoid contracting HIV, and provided him with a list of resources."

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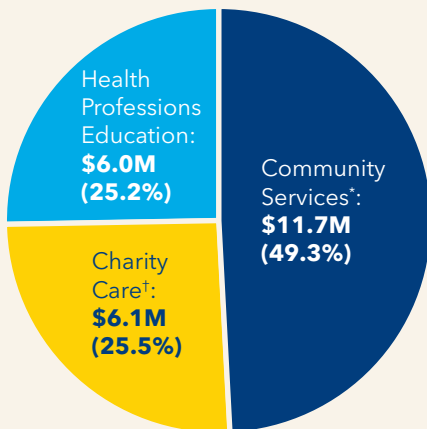
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2020 Community benefit contribution: \$23.8M

*Includes subsidies, community health improvement services, community building activities, financial contributions, and community benefit operations

†Includes Medicaid assessments

It's how we treat people.