

Right Here

A Monthly Newsletter for the Staff of MMC



Jason Douglas

President's Message

Crisper air, drier leaves, reddening apples and rainy mornings – fall is definitely here. It was an eventful and unpredictable summer, but you all did such a great job managing the challenges the past few months brought us.

Now with flu season upon us and COVID-19 still a threat, we'll be dealing with what may seem like an uphill battle. But I have the utmost confidence that we can get through this. You've already shown an incredible amount of tenacity and resilience during what will be a year we'll never forget.

Speaking of flu season, it's time to get your flu shot! Did you know 87.5 million doses of flu vaccine have already been distributed? It's great to hear there are even more vaccines available this year, but that means we need to encourage our families and friends to get vaccinated. And this is where we're really counting on you to do your part and get vaccinated against flu. Not only does it protect you – our essential health care workers and support staff – but it protects the vulnerable and most susceptible in our communities.

(continued on page 2)



October, 2020

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Inside:

- MMC Offers Fit Testing to our Community
- HIM Has Moved
- Employee Discount on Contact Lenses
- True North People - Pathfinders

President's Message, continued from page 1

The percentage of healthcare personnel vaccinated for the flu shot is publicly reported data, and in fact, through WHA's Checkpoint website, patients and community members can see what percentage of MMC's staff are vaccinated based off the state's benchmark and average percentages. They can also see how we rank next to other hospitals. Hospital staff vaccinated for the flu is considered a patient safety measure. Patients want to be assured our hospital is the safest it can be – and staff being vaccinated plays a huge part in that. Let's break down some numbers really quick: The state benchmark – you could say goal – for healthcare personnel immunization is 98.94 and hospitals as a whole are averaging about 95.82 – not too bad. Last year, Memorial Medical Center was at 80.88. Not severe, but you can see there's definitely room for improvement, and we're counting on you to make our organization as safe as it can be by getting immunized.

At Memorial Medical Center, we will be offering complimentary flu shots for staff. Head to the portal for the consent form and to schedule your appointment, and we'll keep you updated on additional dates, locations, and times for getting immunized – we want to make it very simple for you to get your flu shot.

One of the things I really admire about our organization is our ability to continue providing excellent care during uncertain times. A recent orthopedic patient, Kris from Duluth, explained just how personal and attentive her care was. "The care that I got here lived up to all my expectations. They were wonderful," said Kris. "Dr. Signorelli is very professional, yet personable at the same time. He took an interest in me and my family. It was just great," she said. We love hearing these testimonials. They reiterate our commitment to providing high-quality care, and to making sure our patients feel cared for and special. It means so much to them and to me.

I want to thank all our staff who participated in the online Sherry Lipske Silent Auction on our portal the past few weeks. We had some great giveaways and lots of staff engaged with this auction. The proceeds will be given directly to the fund that is part of our Employee Assistance Program at MMC. This program is designed to help staff and their immediate families find support through difficult circumstances.

We also have the Walktober Health Initiative taking place this October, led by our wellness department. This year we are competing against the Ashland School District in tracking our walking and running points. Participants earn daily points for walking or running outside or on a treadmill. Plus, there will be Chamber Bucks drawings for our winners. You can visit the portal for more information and for the tracking sheet, or contact our Wellness Coordinator, Kyle Narges at extension 5508.

Staff – keep doing what you're doing. Day in, day out you're bringing strength and hard work to our organization, you're healing our patients, and keeping our communities safe. Stay safe and healthy. Remember to social distance, wear your masks, wash your hands. It can't be stressed enough, and in order to slow the spread of COVID-19 it requires we all do our part. Be great examples of health in our communities and continue to be beacons of hope.

All my thanks,



Jason Douglas, CEO at Memorial Medical Center



Upcoming Events

PARTNERS OF MMC VIRTUAL NUTMAN SALE **October 4 - 10 • Online Sales Only**

Please participate in this fundraiser for the Partners of MMC Volunteer Group if you are able. When you give back to our organization by contributing to fund raisers for MMC, consider it to be a strong investment in yourself and your career!

DeductIt payments are available if you are currently signed up for that. Remember to put **MMC Ashland** in the order notes at check out so that the Partners of MMC gets credit for the sale.

VITAMIN C DAY WELLNESS EVENT

Tuesday, October 6

11 AM - 1 PM • Outside the Cafeteria

Stop by the wellness table and play some ladderball for a chance to win chamber bucks.

Don't want to play? Stop by anyway and pick up your free bottle of water and EmergenC packet.

Earn 10 points towards your Taking Shape initiative. Register to win a door prize. Bring your passport and get a stamp!

COMPASSIONATE HEARTS COMMUNITY BURIAL AND CEREMONY

Wednesday, October 14 • 2 PM

St. Agnes Cemetery, Sanborn Ave., Ashland

MMC's Compassionate HEARTS support group is hosting a remembrance for miscarried, still-born & infant losses. Call Jenny Galley, Family Birthplace at Ext. 5335 with any questions.

SAVE THE DATE:

All Staff True North Training

Mid November - December 31

The **NUTMAN** **Company will be here virtually!**

200 Fine Quality Nuts, Chocolates, Snack Mixes & Candies

Sunday, October 4th through
Saturday, October 10th

Please go to Nutman's website to place your order:

www.nutman.com

When checking out, in the **Order Note** section, please mention **MMC Ashland** so we get credit for the sale.

If you prefer, you may call The Nutman Co directly at 262-628-4771, and ask for Penny.

Sponsored by Partners of MMC

For more information, please contact Judy Bieri
dandibieri@maqs.net or 608-393-3747

We accept Visa, MC, Amex, Discover and PayPal
DeductIT is available for this sale
(must currently be signed up)



HEALTHCARE OBSERVANCES NOW POSTED ON THE PORTAL

Restrictions around social gatherings have put a damper on the healthcare awareness recognition celebrations that we used to have pre-COVID in various departments.

In order to keep our celebratory spirits alive, Marketing will be posting a healthcare awareness days calendar on the portal at the beginning of each month.

If you or your department would like to submit a story or information to be added to the portal related to any of the observance days, please send via email to **Kate Deering, Marketing**, krdeering@ashlandmmc.com.



Memorial Medical Center Provides Free Respiratory Fit Testing for Local Agencies



MMC has a Respiratory Protection Program in place for staff and community organizations. This standard hospital program includes High Efficiency Particular Aerator (HEPA) mask education, Power Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR) education, and N-95 mask fit testing. Fit testing and mask safety training is necessary for anyone who is in a situation where there may be airborne diseases or other harmful airborne particles present, for instance pharmacists need to have this training for masking while they are mixing certain treatment formulas. The fit training is also an

annual OSHA requirement for some businesses but during the COVID 19 pandemic these requirements have been relaxed as long as individuals were compliant with HEPA Fit testing in 2019. During the mask fit training, a trained instructor will take about 15 to 20 minutes with each individual and go through steps and processes to place, remove, and test masks to make sure they are being used properly and fit the person correctly. This testing and education ensure protection from airborne dangers so staff can safely perform their jobs.

Last March when COVID-19 cases began presenting in Northwestern Wisconsin on the South shore of Lake Superior, businesses and organizations were suddenly in need of more face masks and other PPE's, like the rest of the nation. Facilities such as dentists, oral surgeons and county services offices were trying to keep their employees up to date with their mask fit testing as well. Businesses wanted to make sure everyone was able to continue working safely while recognizing the potential threat of exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

Local businesses reached out to MMC with questions about masks, acquiring fit testing supplies, and how to get fit testing performed for their staff. Initially in early 2020, agencies had come to the hospital campus for fit testing, but with visitor restrictions in place, MMC decided to start a volunteer fit testing outreach service to accommodate businesses in the community. The hospital Cardiopulmonary Department director along with assistance from other hospital staff spent hours of their personal free time to help protect our fellow essential businesses and their customers. Meanwhile, the hospital cut

[Continued on Page 5](#)



Respiratory Fit Testing (continued)

back on the fit trainings for their own staff due to the shortage of N95 masks since the testing process takes masks out of circulation that could be out to use on the front line of operations. Fit testing instructor, Rob Jones says, "We wanted to help the people of our community be able to safely work in any environment where COVID-19 might potentially exist. This is just one of the tangible ways we are trying to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our area."

As of September 2020, MMC had provided courtesy fit testing for more than seven organizations in their community. Requests for fit training are still being processed, and MMC will continue to provide this important service to the Chequamegon Bay region as long as it is needed during COVID 19 pandemic. Their dedication is admirable and a true example of a community coming together to pool their resources in the time of a pandemic.

Stay at least



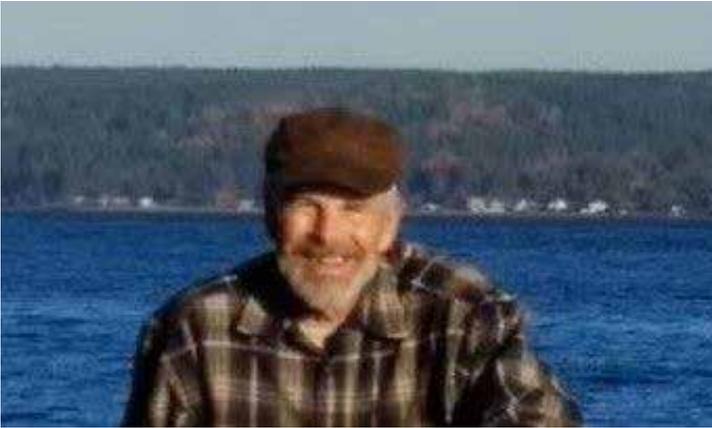
- ✓ *When you are eating, you MUST BE at least 6 feet away from others at all times. No eating in groups.*
- ✓ *Social distancing must be followed in all breakrooms and eating areas (cafeteria, outside, etc).*



Memorial
Medical Center



Long time former MMC Chaplain Passes Away



Walter Kent Seldal left this world too soon for us. Kent's life of service held little fanfare for himself and total commitment to the needs of others. Kent was a pastor, teacher, chaplain, friend, father, husband, actor, singer, and once, a demolition derby race car driver. He could be trusted with building lasting relationships of care and concern. Kent's eyes twinkled with the joy of life. He understood and appreciated the people around him, their unique place in the world, their needs, their worth.

Always interested in learning and expanding his perspectives, Kent earned BA and MA degrees. He was a graduate of Multnomah School of the Bible, Western Washington University, and Covenant Seminary. In addition, he had clinical pastoral interfaith professional education, enabling him to hold a chaplaincy position serving Memorial Medical Center in Ashland.

Kent's enthusiasm for life included singing with the Rittenhouse Singers, playing dartball at Good Shepherd Church, and holding roles in theatre performances. MMC will be eternally grateful for the work and support he gave to our organization and to our community.

Retired MMC Nurse Passes Away



Julia "Julie" J. Raymer, age 74 of Ashland, WI passed away from complications of Lymes disease on Thursday, Aug 27, 2020 at Court Manor Health Services in Ashland.

Julie was a Registered Nurse who started her career in 1978 at Memorial Medical Center in Ashland and retired as a surgical nurse. Her co-workers described her as having a heart of gold, being very organized and efficient. She loved animals having rescued and re-homed many dogs, cats and turtles. She was well known for her beautiful flower gardens and loving sports, especially college football.



Thank You Nutrition Services



Everyone enjoyed the free picnic style lunch served up by Nutrition Services last month. Thanks to all of their staff for continuing to adjust to the protocols around food service and the pandemic so that we can still have a GREAT functioning cafeteria.

Discount on Contacts for Employees

Ophthalmology Services of MMC is offering a discounted price on contact lenses for all employees. MMC staff pay wholesale price plus 10% of cost. This is a considerable savings from retail prices. If you would like to order your contacts through Ophthalmology Services of MMC and take advantage of this employee perk, please call their office at 715-682-0363. You must provide proof of employment by showing your badge or sending an email from your MMC email account.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

What Can You Do to Reduce Your Risk of Breast Cancer?

Many factors over the course of a lifetime can influence your breast cancer risk. You can help lower your risk of breast cancer by taking care of your health in the following ways—

Keep a healthy weight. Exercise regularly. Don't drink alcohol, or limit alcoholic drinks. Breastfeed your children, if possible. If you have a family history of breast cancer talk to your doctor about other ways to lower your risk.

Find more information at: www.cdc.gov/cancer/dcpc/resources/features/breastcancerawareness/index.htm





Todd Reynolds Retires

Todd has been a valuable employee at MMC for almost 30 years before his retirement on October 1. We would like to wish him a safe and happy retirement and all of the best for his future. We will miss you Todd!

Volunteer!!

Faith in Action has the need for raking and snow shoveling volunteers.

These are very flexible hours and can be done whenever you have time. If you are interested contact: Jane Matthias, Executive Director of Ashland County Aging Unit by phone at 715-682-4414 Ext. 4 or email her at director@ashlandaging.org.

Health Information Management Moves

HIM is now located on the ground floor across from the gift shop in what used to be the cafeteria/dining room and Raspberry Island Meeting room space. They are enjoying a modern new office that includes a reception area for Health Information document requests. Visit the portal to take a virtual tour of their new location.



True North Update - People

Pathfinders Employee Training Team

The purpose of the Pathfinders team is to organize employee training events (2 per year) that directly relate to the strategic initiatives of the organization. This includes the journey initiatives implemented through the action plans of the True North People teams.

The staff training events are informative and enjoyable.. These are typically held in person in a large venue over a period of 3 or 4 days. Because of the pandemic, this fall the trainings will be pre-recorded and distributed on the Relias learning platform. All staff will be required to watch the training online. There will be incentives for completing the individual 15 - 20 minute pods by December 15 with a deadline of December 30 for everyone to complete the “Winter Walk to True North” training. Topics will include Nutrition, Telephone Etiquette, Informacast, and STAR Program 2.0. The presenters will be sporting their BEST ugly holiday sweaters and you will get to vote for the UGLIEST sweater at the end of the training.

This team is also in charge of the Passport to True North program. This initiative is based on encouraging MMC employee participation . This year only 3 stamps are required to be entered into a drawing for one of three \$500 cash prizes. Stamps can be obtained for participating in a health and wellness event, by attending or watching a CEO forum, or by participating in a True North staff training event.. Call Kate Deering, Ext. 5186 if you want to have your passport stamped for watching the CEO forum on the portal last month. You will also be able to get a stamp from the wellness table on Tuesday, Oct. 6 and for completing the staff training on Relias that is coming out in mid November. Once you have three stamps in your passport, you can physically show one of the Pathfinders team members , or you can text a pic of your stamps to: krdeering@ashlandmmc.com. Deadline for submitting is December 31, 2020.



The Pathfinders team is looking for new members. All True North people teams meet once a month during the work day. If you are interested in joining the team, talk to your supervisor, and contact **Kim Brown, PAC** at Ext. 5578.

Current Pathfinders team members: Kim Brown, Chair; Kate Deering, Co-Chair; Laurie Henri; Tiffany Hudak; Rená Weber; Heidi Haas and Jenny Delnay.

Passport Prize Drawing Party, January 2020 with a complimentary frozen yogurt bar from Kravin'.





STAR

Service

Teamwork

Accountability

Respect

Every encounter,
every person,
every time.



**Memorial
Medical Center**

Right here in the place we love.



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Sherry Lipske Silent Auction, and congratulations to all of the winners! The auction raised over \$1,600 for the Sherry Lipske Fund.

This could not have happened without the wonderful donations given by departments and individuals.

Visit the portal to see the list of items and winners.

Got Photos?
Submit them to *Right Here!*

We'd love to highlight your favorite photos. Send us your photos from summer fun activities, or any milestones of you and your family.

Email your pictures as JPG files to krdeering@ashlandmmc.com