



HAPPENINGS

www.nearnorthhealth.org

Winter 2020/2021

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NEAR NORTH HEALTH IN THE COMMUNITY

By Kathleen Jackson, Director of External Affairs



Above: Near North Health staff providing COVID-19 testing services at Belmont-Cragin Elementary School.

Toward to the end of 2020, COVID-19 cases in Chicago spiked and resulted in the shut down of many businesses and gatherings prior to the holidays.

In response to the urgency brought on by this spike in cases, Near North Health extended COVID-19 testing services beyond Near North Health Centers and throughout Chicago's communities by collaborating with various community organizations, faith-based organizations and Aldermen. As a result of these efforts, Near North Health has been able to establish a footprint in new communities and help community members stay safe.

Over the last two months, Near North Health provided the following organizations with COVID-19 testing services for community members:

- Our Neighborhood's Promise
- A Phillip Randolph Elementary School
- Parkside Community Academy
- St. Josaphat School
- Belmont-Cragin Elementary School
- Love, Peace & Unity Mobilized Outreach Event

For more information about COVID-19 testing in your community, please contact Kathleen Jackson, Director of External Affairs, at (312) 337-1073 x4217.

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Happy New Year! In 2020, Near North Health Service Corporation faced many challenges alongside the rest of the world as we all battled, and continue to battle, the COVID-19 pandemic. Although this pandemic is not yet over, the end is in sight, and Near North Health is doing everything possible to keep Chicago's communities safe and healthy as we enter the new year.



Last year, Near North Health partnered with several local organizations across the city to provide COVID-19 testing to Chicago's most underserved and underrepresented residents, and will continue to partner with other organizations this year to do the same.

In addition to taking our health care services into Chicago's communities, Near North Health is also continuing to provide daily walk-up and drive-up COVID-19 testing at our Komed Holman Health Center. Additionally, as of 2021, walk up and drive up COVID-19 testing is also being provided at our Winfield Moody Health Center on Wednesdays from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Near North Health is also implementing the most up-to-date safety precautions across all Near North health centers as they are introduced.

In these pages, you will also read about what is new at Near North Health this year, including our recent partnership the National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement, also known as NIMAA. Through this partnership, Near North Health will allow program participants to complete their training to become medical assistants at a Near North Health Center. Through the guidance and support of Near North Health medical professionals, we hope to inspire participants to continue striving toward their goal and help reduce the shortage of these much needed professionals across the nation.

As we enter this new year, Near North Health hopes you will continue to support our mission and vision to make Chicago's communities healthier than ever before. Thank you for your continued support, and we hope you enjoy reading about Near North Health's recent happenings in this edition.

Sincerely,
Berneice Mills-Thomas
Chief Executive Officer

NEAR NORTH HEALTH PARTNERS WITH MEDICAL ASSISTANT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

By Chloe Kasper, External Affairs and Communications Assistant

**PROUD TO
PARTNER
WITH**



Not Your Average Medical Assisting Program!

Near North Health is partnering with the National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement (NIMAA) to provide Chicago's communities with the opportunity to become trained Medical Assistants at a Near North Health Center.

NIMAA is a nonprofit education institute created by community health centers that trains Medical Assistants to work effectively in today's high-performing primary health care settings. NIMAA's mission is to provide communities with access to education and employment opportunities while addressing a critical workforce shortage of medical assistants nationwide.

NIMAA offers an eight-month training program that combines hands-on clinical experience with an innovative online curriculum. Through Near North Health's partnership with NIMAA, participants will be able to conduct their training at one of Near North Health's eight Chicago-based community health centers while learning how to work as members of the health care team here and in other high-performing primary care organizations.

Because NIMAA is a non-profit institution, NIMAA is competitive and highly affordable compared to many other Medical Assistant training programs. Tuition for NIMAA's program is \$6,000, plus \$760 in fees, and a \$25 application fee. Financing is also available.

Applications for the March cohort are now closed. For information on applying in the future, please visit <https://www.nearnorthhealth.org/nimaa> or email info@nimaa.org.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS: NEAR NORTH HEALTH GIVES BACK TO PATIENTS DURING 2020 HOLIDAY SEASON

By Chloe Kasper, External Affairs and Communications Assistant



Above: Near North Health patients and their families receiving their holiday gifts.

This holiday season, Near North Health celebrated restructured versions of the Annual Christmas Giveaway and the Annual Patient Appreciation celebration due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Every year, Near North Health staff members nominate patients and their families in need for the Annual Christmas Giveaway. In past years, nominated patients and families would gather at a Near North Health Center during the holiday season to receive the curated gift bags that included items such as toys, clothing, and toiletries.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a gathering of nominated patients and families could not occur, but that did not stop Near North Health from giving back. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Near North Health was able to provide 73 Near North Health patients and their families with \$100 gift cards and healthy snacks this holiday season.

Additionally, Near North Health also adjusted the Annual Patient Appreciation Celebration so that it could still take place despite the COVID-19 pandemic. In an effort to keep all parties safe and socially distanced, Near North Health celebrated Patient Appreciation by making it so patients who had appointments during the weeks of the celebration were entered into a raffle. Given the amount of appointments that were scheduled during these weeks, Near North Health was able to select eight winners who were gifted healthy cooking appliances such as Magic Bullet blenders and crock-pots.

Near North Health would like to thank all patients who were nominated for the Annual Christmas Giveaway and patients who visited a Near North Health Center during the weeks of the Annual Patient Appreciation Celebration for continuing to choose Near North Health as your medical home.

To make an appointment today, please visit <https://www.nearnorthhealth.org/make-an-appointment>.

CONTACT TRACING AT NEAR NORTH

By Dr. Stephanie Cox-Batson, Chief Medical Officer



Near North Health has partnered with The City of Chicago to combat COVID-19 through effective contact tracing capabilities and services.

In public health contact tracing is the process of identifying persons who may have come into contact with an infected individual and collecting information about the contacts. This is done confidentially. The contact tracing team consists of four trained Case Investigators/Contact Tracers, one Resource Coordinator/Case Investigator, and one Lead Contact Tracer.

Near North Health's lead contact tracer is Mr. John Coleman. The contact tracing team reaches out to all Near North Health patients and people tested at a Near North health center that are diagnosed with COVID-19. The case investigators ensure that people with COVID-19 have the resources they need to isolate. Then the contact tracers follow up with anyone who may have been exposed to the COVID-19 positive person. This is done without revealing who the person with COVID-19 is to others who were in contact with them.

The contact tracing team then educates the exposed individuals on how to quarantine and look for COVID-19 symptoms that may need care. The contact tracing team also offers exposed individuals resources for housing, food, financial assistance, mental health along with provider follow up.

Near North Health has played an integral part in reducing the COVID-19 infection rate in the most at risk Chicago communities, and will continue to provide COVID-19 testing services as the pandemic persists.

For more information on Near North Health's response to COVID-19, please visit <https://www.nearnorthhealth.org/covid-19>.

NEAR NORTH HEALTH HONORS VETERAN'S DAY 2020

By Kathleen Jackson, Director of External Affairs



Above: Near North Health patient and Veteran Vance J. Clay receiving his Veteran's Day gift bag.

In honor of Veterans Day 2020, Near North Health's Board of Directors and staff thanked all veteran patients and staff for their time, bravery and sacrifice fighting for freedom in the United States of America.

Near North Health patients and staff have served our country in the Coast Guard, Army, Marines, Air Force, and Navy in World War I & II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War and War in Afghanistan.

In honor of their service, Near North Health provided veteran patients and staff with a small gift of appreciation this past Veteran's Day.

Near North Health thanks all veteran patients for choosing Near North Health as their medical home, and looks forward to continuing to serve them throughout 2021 and beyond.

Big things are happening at Near North Health and we're going to tell you all about them in a Special Edition of the Happenings Newsletter coming soon. Don't miss it!

NEAR NORTH HEALTH CENTERS

Cottage View Health Center
4829 S. Cottage Grove Ave.,
Chicago, IL 60615
(773) 548-1170

Komed Holman Health Center
4259 S. Berkeley Ave.,
Chicago, IL 60653
(773) 268-7600

North Kostner Health Center
1520 N. Kostner Ave.,
Chicago, IL 60651
(312) 216-8020

Sunnyside Health Center
4501 N. Sheridan Rd.,
Chicago, IL 60640
(773) 878-8098

Denny Community Health Center
30 W. Chicago Ave.,
Chicago, IL, 60610
(312) 741-8554

Louise Landau Health Center
800 N. Kedzie Ave.,
Chicago, IL 60651
(773) 826-3450

Reavis School-Based Health Center
834 E. 50th St.,
Chicago, IL 60615
(773) 358-6767

Winfield Moody Health Center
1276 N. Clybourn Ave.,
Chicago, IL 60610
(312) 337-1073