Our Response to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic affected everyone – physically, financially, emotionally. Recognizing the impact this would have on our community – especially its most vulnerable members – Pittsburgh Mercy worked quickly to combat the spread of the virus.

In March 2020, we implemented the necessary safety procedures to mitigate risk, contain the virus spread, and respond to rapidly changing events and needs. We upgraded our technology to allow for group meetings and telehealth appointments and implemented all safety guidelines at our family health center and at all of our residential facilities.

**Testing**
Designated as an official COVID-19 test site, we performed thousands of tests in vulnerable populations, including in congregate care settings where staff and residents are at much higher risk for poor outcomes, such as in our Mental Health Personal Care Homes, Community Living Arrangements, and in homeless encampments, shelters, and housing providers, including our Winter Shelter as well as Light of Life Ministries, the McKeesport Shelter, Safe Haven Hotel, and several others homeless services agencies, often by request from the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD).

In addition, we hired three contact tracers to support ACHD COVID-19 contact tracing efforts and established quarantine homes to separate exposed individuals from other residents.

**Vaccinations**
Pittsburgh Mercy is proud to have administered over 13,000 COVID-19 vaccinations. This work included vaccinating hard-to-reach populations who have high degrees of health disparities. In addition, we collaborated with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the ACHD, and more than 70 community partners to help maximize vaccine access.

We established a vaccination clinic in our South Side location and deployed mobile vaccination teams to reach those high-risk populations living in congregate care settings and unable to travel. We partnered with McAuley Ministries, ACHD, the University of Pittsburgh, and the Hill Community Engagement to provide vaccines for those in the Hill District, Uptown and West Oakland.

We also partnered with ACHD and Allegheny County Department of Human Services to support Intellectual Services Providers who needed vaccinations for staff and participants, and connected with other mental health, homeless services providers, faith-based organizations, and communities to vaccinate thousands of high-risk, eligible individuals who might otherwise have fallen through the cracks.
**Looking ahead**

For our fiscal year 2022 (which began July 1), we’re building on several lessons learned over the past 16 months to inform our work and expand future services. These include continuing telehealth options for those with transportation barriers, strengthening community partnerships, and utilizing our Incident Command model to find innovative ways to respond to community health initiatives.

**Welcome to Donor Connection**, our new monthly e-newsletter designed to keep you up to date on the services and programs offered at Pittsburgh Mercy. We hope you will find it useful, and we welcome your suggestions!

Development@pittsburghmercy.org is your resource for questions and information about Pittsburgh Mercy and the programs you support. Reach out to us at Development@pittsburghmercy.org and please share your thoughts on our first Donor Connection e-newsletter.

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**#ONEDAY is Tuesday, August 3**

On Tuesday, August 3, 2021, you can bring more healing, joy, and hope to those in need in our community!

On that day, The Pittsburgh Foundation will provide a prorated match for all donations between $25-$1000, making your dollars go further.

Please mark your calendars for August 3rd and visit www.PittsburghGives.org (from 8:00 am - 11:59 pm) and make a gift to Pittsburgh Mercy.

With your help, we can:

- Provide medical care, warm meals, and housing assistance to those who are experiencing homelessness.
- Offer low-cost options to those who are seeking behavioral health services.
- Deliver care that fosters independence so that those with intellectual disabilities can lead self-determining lives.

Thank you for your support!

[Go To Pittsburgh Gives](#)