

MedStaff Update

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FEATURED STORY

Operation PPE

Med Staff Colleagues Launch Operation PPE to Collect Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Donations for Long Term Care Facilities



Identifying the urgent need for PPE in long term care communities, a group of physicians and nurses from Stanford Health Care, Palo Alto Medical Foundation and the Los Altos Geriatric Center came together to start Operation PPE, a project that aimed to collect PPE donations for more than 41 local memory, assisted, board and care communities, and skilled nursing facilities on the Peninsula.

Operation PPE co-founder, Dr. Yusra Hussain, Adjunct Clinical Professor of Primary Care and Population Health and Medical Director of the Vi Skilled Nursing Center and HRC Manor Care, is pictured above delivering hospital gowns donated by Stanford Health Care that don't meet hospital guidelines to Avenidas in Palo Alto.

“As geriatrician colleagues, we started Operation PPE in late March as we grew concerned by the lack of supplies in long term care centers,” said Dr. Hussain.

“We know from county health reports and three months of tracking and tracing new cases and death rates that these care communities are not only current ‘hot spots,’ but also at higher risk for both COVID-19 surges and flu infections in the months ahead,” she added.

The Operation PPE volunteer medical staff team includes Stanford physicians Dr. Marina Martin, Chair, Geriatric Medicine; Dr. Can Chan, Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine; Dr. Mehrdad Ayati, MD, Adjunct Professor of Medicine; Dr. Yusra Husain, Adjunct Clinical Professor of Primary Care and Population Health and Medical Director of the Vi Skilled Nursing Center and HRC Manor Care; and Palo Alto Medical Foundation physicians Dr. Albert H. Lam, Chair Department of Geriatric Medicine; Dr. Peter Cheng, Lead Physician, Palo Alto Guzik Center; Dr. Amy Hsu, Clinical Practice Lead for Geriatrics; Dr. Haini Liao, Attending Physician; and Pat Robinson, RN.

Together, they have collected donations of thousands of PPE products from health care providers like Stanford and the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, corporate donors like



Dr. Marina Martin, Dr. Amy Hsu, and Dr. Albert Lam delivering supplies to Webster House in Palo Alto.

Intuit, and community donors like the Chinese American COVID-19 Fund. The team has also been touched by the support of neighbors and local high school students from Basis Independent Silicon Valley who collected supplies to augment the effort.

In May, Operation PPE partnered with the Avenidas Enrichment Center of Palo Alto to expand the reach of their efforts. Avenidas provided storage space for PPE donations at their site as well as staff support.

The group meets weekly and continues to collect and distribute PPE. As the pandemic continues, members of Operation PPE anticipate a continued need for PPE in long term care facilities and have written to Governor Gavin Newsom with recommendations for enhanced RCFE oversight and support.