

# Care Connection



Pasadena community leaders earned their bandages of honor by receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

## Hope is here.

Huntington Hospital is here for you in good times and bad — and this past year has certainly challenged us all. We're proud to have remained a beacon of hope and healing throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and are overjoyed to see light at the end of the tunnel.

The COVID-19 vaccines are now widely available, promising the opportunity to spend time with one another again. Our nurses have administered more than 35,000 doses of the vaccine to date! We're happy to not only continue working to keep you healthy and safe, but to help you get back to your normal life.

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### Working together to #VaccinatePasadena.

To support equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine, Huntington outreach nurses joined the City of Pasadena and Pasadena Public Health Department at community pop-up vaccine clinics in collaboration with Harambee Ministries, the NAACP Pasadena Chapter, Villa Parke Community Center, National Day Laborers Organizing Network, and Robinson Park. We're looking forward to partnering with even more local organizations in the near future.

We are extremely honored to be a part of this team effort to increase access to the COVID-19 vaccine for members of our community!



# Let's end this pandemic.



## Rest assured

that the Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccines are safe and effective. The vaccines were evaluated in tens of thousands of participants in clinical trials and none of these vaccines will make you sick with COVID-19.

We encourage you to get vaccinated — it's the quickest and safest way for us to end this pandemic. To book your appointment at any local vaccine clinic, including at our hospital, visit:

<https://myturn.ca.gov>

For answers to frequently asked questions regarding the vaccine, including how to get vaccinated, visit:

[www.huntingtonhospital.org/vaccine](http://www.huntingtonhospital.org/vaccine)

Remember, it takes 2-6 weeks to build immunity after vaccination.

Azhil (Alex) Durairaj, MD, medical director of cardiovascular services, is pictured in our new Heart & Vascular Center, which will open in late summer.



## Welcome to the heart of patient care.

**W**e strive for excellence in everything we do for heart patients, and it shows. In 2021, Healthgrades, the leading online resource for information about physicians and hospitals, again named us one of America's 100 Best Hospitals for Cardiac Care and Coronary Intervention.

As part of our constant effort to speed and strengthen care for heart patients, we are gearing up to open a new state-of-the-art heart and vascular center in late summer. From research and diagnosis to treatment and recovery, the center's comprehensive range of cardiovascular services — along with the latest medical technologies — are all brought together under one roof.

Located directly above our Nan and Howard Schow Emergency & Trauma Center, the new Helen and Will Webster Heart & Vascular Center will reduce time to treatment for cardiac patients and allow us to increase the number of patients we treat by 30 percent, further healing hearts and saving lives.

We're extremely grateful for the support of community philanthropists who have partnered with us in creating our leading-edge heart and vascular center. If you need expert cardiac care, follow your heart to Huntington Hospital — we look forward to welcoming you.

Learn more at: [www.huntingtonhospital.org/heart](http://www.huntingtonhospital.org/heart)



# Put your health first.

**Here are some facts.** One, during the last year, the CDC estimates that close to half of all adults have either delayed or avoided medical care during the pandemic. Two, putting off care can have serious health consequences. And three, at Huntington Hospital, we're ready to safely care for you.

Skipping annual checkups and other preventive care can be a risk to your health long-term. Just as important: If you think you may have a medical problem, don't wait to get care. Putting off health care may complicate your condition or make your recovery more difficult.

Huntington Hospital and all our care partners are here for you and put your safety first by following strict screening and safety protocols. If you've been delaying getting the care you need, it's time to make your health a priority.





## Finding trusted Huntington care is easy. Just look for the cube.

It's a symbol that stands for our commitment to your good health. Whether at our hospital, ambulatory surgery center, cancer center, your doctor's office or throughout our community, we're here to safely care for your physical, mental and social well-being.

Find the care you need by visiting:  
[www.huntingtonhospital.org/family](http://www.huntingtonhospital.org/family)



## The gold standard in nursing care.

**W**e have received our third Magnet® designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, the highest national honor for nursing practice.

Magnet hospitals — which include only nine percent of hospitals nationwide — have higher patient satisfaction, better patient outcomes, increased nurse satisfaction and improved safety and quality.

This incredible achievement is a testament to our nurses' continued dedication to delivering the highest-quality care. Huntington nurses are skilled, compassionate and always here for you when you need them.

To learn more about our award-winning, world-class care, visit: [www.huntingtonhospital.org/awards](http://www.huntingtonhospital.org/awards)

# Overcoming Covid-19

**When Teo Praslin** started running a fever in April 2020, he promptly got tested for COVID-19. Though Teo tested positive, he was initially well enough to return home, where he quarantined in a separate area of the family home to keep his loved ones as safe as possible.

Over the coming days, though, Teo felt steadily worse. His wife, Maria, rushed him to our emergency department. Teo was quickly admitted for inpatient care. As the virus continued to take its toll on his body, he was placed on a ventilator. His heart and kidneys began to fail and he lost consciousness.

Thanks to our use of the latest care techniques from the outset of the pandemic, Teo's immunologist was able to offer convalescent plasma therapy. When the needed plasma became available and we started the therapy, Teo's condition began to improve.

Even as our team members work relentlessly to save the lives of patients with COVID-19, we also recognize the importance of keeping loved ones informed. "Everyone took the time to answer my questions," Maria says. "The doctors called me every morning, and I talked to the nurses on every shift. We felt really supported."

As Teo began the long road to recovery, he regained consciousness, but remained paralyzed. Later, when he was well enough, he was transferred to a rehabilitation center, where he received care for an additional three weeks. Though he was still using a wheelchair when he returned home, he is now walking again, and his recovery continues: "I still have to do dialysis twice a week, but I'm back at work. I can think and live," he says. "That's what's important."

Adds Maria, "I wish I could go in and thank each doctor, nurse and staff member at Huntington Hospital, in person. The whole team was amazing."



To find COVID-19 information and resources, visit:  
[www.huntingtonhospital.org/COVID19](http://www.huntingtonhospital.org/COVID19)



COVID-19 nearly killed Teo Praslin (pictured center), but our expert care team saved his life. Teo is now back home with his grateful family. Pictured with Teo are his wife, Maria (second from left), and their children (from left), Matthew, Ethan and Emily.



# Baby Love

**I**n late March 2020, Rachel Galluppi went into labor — 35 weeks into her pregnancy. She and her husband, Francis, rushed to Huntington Hospital. After examining Rachel, caregivers determined that her baby was in breech position. Rachel would need a cesarean section right away.

Only an hour after the Galluppis arrived at the hospital, baby Gianna arrived. Though she seemed in good health at first, within just a few hours, Gianna began to have serious problems. Gianna's lungs had not fully developed, and she needed help to breathe. She was quickly moved to our NICU.

Home to the only level-III NICU in our service region, we provide the most advanced care for premature and very sick babies. The Galluppi family already knew us well: Francis and one of his brothers also received care here when they were born. "They saved my life," says Francis, "and I was confident Gianna was getting the best care, too."

In addition to receiving respiratory support, Gianna needed to be fed via a tube. She also received therapy to strengthen her legs, which were impacted by her breech position in the womb. Due to the pandemic, "Everyone always wore masks and there were all sorts of sanitation precautions," says Francis. "They were the best about keeping us safe."

After 10 days of advanced care, Gianna was ready to go home. Today, she is meeting her developmental milestones — and is healthy, happy and curious about the world.

To learn more about our expert care for moms and babies, visit: [www.huntingtonhospital.org/baby](http://www.huntingtonhospital.org/baby)