

Sacred Heart receives national recognition for safety

PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend was awarded an 'A' in the spring 2020 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, a national distinction recognizing RiverBend's achievements providing safer health care.

The Leapfrog Group is an independent national watchdog organization committed to health care quality and safety.

The Safety Grade is a letter grade assigned to all general hospitals across the country and updated every six months, assessing how well the hospital prevents medical errors and other harms to patients.

"I am incredibly proud

of the hard work, collaboration and dedication that our caregivers, providers and leaders put forth every day in support of PeaceHealth's quality and safety," said Mary Kingston, PeaceHealth Oregon chief executive. "The current COVID-19 pandemic truly put a spotlight on the importance of this work as we are driven by our commitment to delivering compassionate, high-quality care for our patients, families and communities.

"The 'A' rating is an achievement that serves as a grounding touchstone, that we can and will continue to do more in trans- forming the way we provide

care." "As the Nation copes with a challenging pandemic, our gratitude extends to hospital leadership and healthcare workers everywhere for their tremendous dedication," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "We hope this 'A' helps to thank the people who work and volunteer for PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend.

"They are role models in putting patients first, and their service has been extraordinary in our country's time of need."

Developed under the guidance of a national Expert Panel, the Leapfrog

Hospital Safety Grade uses up to 28 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to assign grades to more than 2,600 U.S. acute-care hospitals twice per year.

The Hospital Safety Grade's methodology is peer-reviewed and fully transparent, and the results are free to the public.

To see PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend's full grade details and access patient tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit hospitalsafetygrade.org and follow The Leapfrog Group on Twitter and Facebook.

OHA reports no known transmission of virus through food, packaging

Given the recent plant closures across the U.S. and some in Oregon, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) want to assure Oregonians there is no evidence that human or animal food — or food packaging is associated with the transmission of COVID-19.

Food products do not need to be withdrawn or recalled from the market if someone on the farm or in the processing plant tests positive.

"The virus is thought to spread mainly from person to person, such as between people who are in close contact with one another, or through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes," said Paul Cieslak, M.D., senior health adviser for OHA's COVID-19 response. "A person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface that an infected person has touched, which is why it is so important to get in the habit of washing your hands often including before and after preparing meals, before eating and after you come home if you've

been out."

ODA and OHA, in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Protection (CDC) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), are working together offering guidance to employers as they work to ensure the health and safety of their employees and the food and agricultural workforce that help keep the food supply chain strong. Workers are the backbone of this critical infrastructure.

"Our top priority is to provide as much support and guidance to our grocery stores, food banks, food processors and agriculture industry as we can to help protect their workforce and the public," said ODA Director Alexis Taylor. "Our food safety inspectors are still on the job offering remote and in-person inspections, doing their best to keep the food supply moving and helping provide the safest food possible to all Oregonians."

Grocery stores, food processors and distributors have been provided guidance on how to protect their workforce and con-

sumers from COVID-19.

This includes the following CDC and FDA recommendations:

- Enforce physical distancing in lines, separate customers and employees by six feet whenever possible.
- Install floor markings to require customers to stand behind, until it's time to complete the transaction.
- Consider limiting the number of people in the store at one time; implement a maximum capacity and assign staff to manage the number of people entering.
- Consider setting special hours for vulnerable populations, such as the elderly or immuno-compromised.

Guidance was also provided for sanitization and employee protection to further inhibit transmission in manufacturing environments and grocery stores.

Some recommendations include:

- Do not allow symptomatic (fever of 100.4° F or greater, signs of a fever, or other symptoms) or ill employees to report for duty.
- Regularly clean and disinfect surfaces to limit em-

ployee contact and increase frequency of cleaning and sanitizing of common touch points (door handles, touchscreens, keypads).

• Consider altering store hours to allow for increased cleaning and re-stocking without customers present.

• Cross-train employees and rotate staff between cashier, stocking and other duties, to limit mental fatigue in adhering to social distancing measures.

• Consider installing sneeze-guards at cashier stations.

• Schedule handwashing breaks every 30-60 minutes. Employees should wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains 60-95 percent alcohol may be used.

Additional guidance is available at www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-during-emergencies/what-do-if-you-have-covid-19-confirmed-positive-or-exposed-workers-your-food-production-storage-or.

OSP from A1

located in the driver compartment of the vehicle.

The driver, Juan Felipe Moreno, 20, of Florida, and the passenger, Jose Noe Guisjon, 30, of Cali-

fornia, will be referred to the Lane County District Attorney's Office for Money Laundering.

Moreno was cited for Driving Under the Influ-

ence of Intoxicants.

Oregon State Police Troopers were assisted by the Department of Homeland Security Medford Of-

ice.

AID from A1

could be helpful in terms of financial support, so I kind of put the two together," said Duncan.

The aid is geared toward people who have recently been laid off and lack access to social safety nets. Duncan's fundraiser awards up to \$100 to applicants, "which in the grand scheme of things is just a drop in the bucket," she said, "but it helps."

Donations have steadily streamed in since the fundraiser began collecting on April 16, totaling about \$1,500 as of May 7.

So far, the program has managed to distribute

money to eight community members, mostly awarding \$100 each.

Those wishing to donate may do so directly on Facebook at the "Health Hub Covid 19 Emergency Fundraiser" page or by depositing a donation at Banner Bank to the "Health Hub Covid Emergency Fund" account.

A link to applications to receive aid can be found on the fundraiser's Facebook page.

As the economic horizon is still hazy for many, Duncan plans on keeping the fundraiser going "as long as people want to donate money to help people," she said.

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