

# New Direction

## They said get ready, so we did

Word of a mysterious new illness from China hit our radar in Nacogdoches in late January and by the first week in February Memorial Hospital had sent out an educational link reminding us of cough etiquette. And the monitoring began.

By the first week of March, preparations were in full swing. Travel and visitor restrictions were instituted the second week of March. Ten days later, on March 23, we admitted our first COVID-19 patient at Nacogdoches Memorial Hospital. On March 25, after a whirlwind of effort by both hospitals, the city and county and SFA, the joint task force launched a Community COVID-19 Call Center and Testing Tent. So far, Nacogdoches has tested over 1,650 people and fielded well over 2,700 calls.

Emergency management officials across the nation warned that hospitals should brace for an unprecedented onslaught, so that's what we did. We stepped up and worked hard, pulling for each other and keeping our sense of humor. Though we're opening up and returning to some level of normalcy like the rest of our state, this is not over. It's worth remembering that COVID-19 is still out there, still mysterious and unpredictable and still killing people. This is not a time to get complacent.

Nacogdoches Memorial is getting busier. On Thursday of this week, Nacogdoches Memorial Professional Group and the Care First Clinics matched their daily visits average for November. That same day, our medical imaging department set what could be an all time record for number of procedures in a day.

Enjoy this recap newsletter of the past few months and reflect on the camaraderie that you shared with your fellow COVID-19 warriors. Whether you were on the front lines yourself, supported those who were, or kept the house running while the battles raged, you had an important part in the history of Memorial. Relish the teamwork that just happened and is still happening. We're Nacogdoches Memorial Health, where people come first.











# As Memorial braced for COVID-19, Nac had our backs

We've felt the love and support of our community in a grand way here at Nacogdoches Memorial since the coronavirus pandemic became a reality in March. More than three months later, we're breathing a little easier and the pace is turning from break-neck frantic back to plain ordinary (yet still very welcome) hectic. And volumes seem to be picking up, so stay prepped (and braced) for a potential second wave!

Nacogdoches fed us quite well as you can see, but we received more than food. There were donations of people's time, talents, energy and prayers. The people sewing masks for us hailed from as far away as Colorado and the donations ranged as high as \$200,000. Our donors used everything from a needle and thread to a 3-D printer to help us. We were treated to drive-by parades, parking lot prayer vigils, climbing Jeep greetings, Emoji Poop toys and sidewalk masterpieces.

We are touched beyond belief and forever grateful.





# Celebrating victories, graduations and superheroes



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