



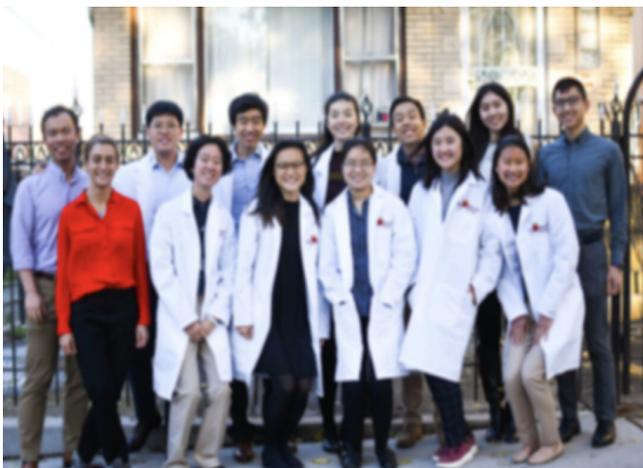
Pritzker's Community-wide Efforts against COVID-19

For the last year and a half, all of our lives were profoundly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. It became clear that the normal rhythm at Pritzker had to be transformed as well in response to new needs for remote learning, social distancing, and executing an effective community-wide COVID-19 response.

What makes the response of UChicago Medicine-Pritzker so remarkable is its many tiers of engagement. Our response to the pandemic includes engagement with all members of our community, from healthcare workers, administrators, and faculty to students. Furthermore, additional initiatives have been taken on to encourage wellness practices during a time when we have to be creative about social interaction. As you read about the several student-led initiatives, we hope you are as proud as we are to be a part of this community with a strong commitment to advocacy, bridging gaps in disparity, and clinical excellence. This work is not over, as the pandemic persists and major needs for vaccine outreach remain unmet, and we hope you and your peers will continue the tradition of serving the community.

Volunteer Initiatives

Bridgeport Free Clinic Guide - Pritzker student volunteers of Bridgeport Free Clinic, a clinic that serves a predominantly Asian and Asian-American population, saw a noticeable issue: a lack of credible or reliably translated information regarding COVID-19. Our phenomenal students collaborated to make an online guide in an effort to publish credible, resourceful information for non-English-speaking communities.



COVID-19 Q+A

University of Chicago & Bridgeport Free Clinic

For more information visit: tinyurl.com/covid-bfc

Community/Class Education & Outreach

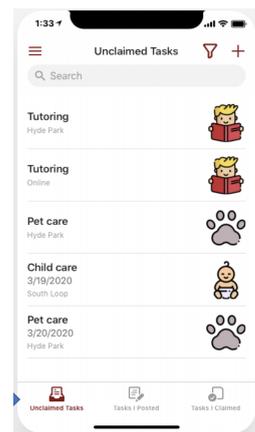
UChicago prides itself on its commitment to outreach, advocacy, education, and a chance to work alongside our community members. Some of these initiatives serve to spark discourse within our own community and also to reach out and engage with vulnerable populations and offer support:

- **Share Network Chicago & Pritzker** - Older adults are being hit particularly hard by the pandemic. They are in need of support now more than ever! We have been working with the SHARE Network through a Friendly Caller program to help combat social isolation and food insecurity among older adults on the South Side.
- **Community Discussions: Bowman Society Lectures** - Pritzker has held several talks within our community to discuss the impact that COVID-19 is having on minority populations. This Bowman Lecture series has featured our very own Drs. Monica Peek, Karen Kim, Arshiya Baig, and Doriane Miller discussing disparities in COVID testing and outcomes in Chicago neighborhoods.



COVID Hotline - The COVID support line is the result of a UCMC Hospital initiative to provide a streamlined medium to provide attention to UCMC employees, UChicago members, and patients. Pritzker students volunteer for shifts to help with calling back patients to provide education and instructions on self-isolate, red flag symptoms, and risk. Overseen on a daily basis by some of our senior students, best practices for the support line are being updated in real-time as we learn more about the pandemic!

Pritzker Helps Out - Our UCM faculty, nurses, and residents are busy people! They are working tirelessly on the frontlines. So this web app was created by our very own Pritzker alumni Mika Kachman for UChicago faculty and residents to post their child care, tutoring, and pet care needs in a centralized location. Student volunteers can log into the app and sign up for various services.



Infection Control Support, Observation, & Patient Callbacks

This UCMC Hospital initiative allows volunteers to have a hands-on roles in various activities such as case report entry, daily analysis of COVID-19 demographics data, assistance with the establishment of new COVID-19 units, and ensuring appropriate use of PPE as infection control observers. Medical students, particularly our MS3's and MS4's, take an active role in patient callbacks by conveying the results of their COVID-19 testing and providing over-the-phone follow-up, education, and home-isolation instructions.

South Side COVID Vaccine Outreach

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on minority communities in Chicago, especially those on the South Side. In 2021, this disparity has been mirrored in unequal access to vaccination. A task force from the University of Chicago Medical Center partnered with medical students in order to provide information about the vaccine as well as address vaccine concerns and hesitancy in our South Side community. This initiative also allowed students to directly schedule community members for COVID-19 vaccine appointments.

CHHRGE Vaccine Education

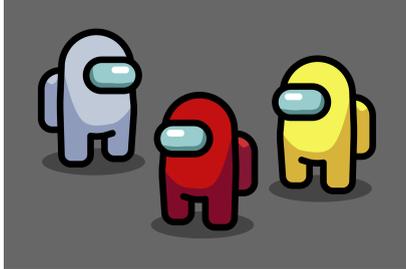
The Pritzker chapter of CHHRGE (Chicago Homelessness and Health Response Group for Equity) is currently partnering with the Night Ministry to disseminate COVID-19 vaccine education among people experiencing homelessness on the South Side of Chicago. The goal of this initiative is to answer common questions, dispel myths, and give people the knowledge and comfort they need to get the vaccine.

Pritzker Wellness Initiatives & Programming During COVID

Wellness is a journey and not a destination. Medical school is going to be a rewarding, yet complex chapter in this journey, and it's paramount that we start developing the healthy practices for a well-balanced career in medicine. At Pritzker, as you will soon find out, wellness is a lived practice and part of our culture of excellence! Now more than ever, we are coming together as a community to ensure healthy practices and creative outlets for support and social interaction. Our wellness initiatives, led by our wonderful Wellness Committee and Dr. Lee have made incredible efforts to further community engagement and fun. Below, you will find pictures and details about several previous and ongoing wellness efforts throughout our community.

Quarantales: During the winter quarter, the Wellness Committee put on a Zoom open mic night featuring anonymous submissions from students. These submissions ranged from poetry, to stories, to pseudo-abstracts and they were all about one topic: how the pandemic had affected our lives. The anonymous submissions were read aloud by our peers; it was a night of catharsis and many shared laughs and tears.

Weekly Mindfulness & Meditation Sessions: Every Thursday, we have the honor and delight of practicing mindfulness meditation with our beloved Dr. Oyola. “The goal is to gain greater compassion with ourselves when the mind has wandered off.”



Among Us Nights: Many of you likely got very into an online game called “Among Us” in which some of your friends are actually traitors and your job is to figure out who. During the fall quarter, our classmates held frequent Among Us game nights where we enjoyed some incredible snack packs courtesy of M1 Ashley Diaz and enjoyed betraying each other.

Recipes Slack Channel: Throughout the pandemic, many people have turned to the joy of cooking to bide their time. Lots of us have learned to create delicious recipes and have learned some new cooking skills. To share our pursuits, the M1s have maintained quite an active Recipes Slack channel, sharing our cooking and baking escapades. Rumor has it that there is also a GroupMe called “SoupMe” where people are only allowed to share soups.



Bunny Meditation: Through another Wellness initiative, students got the chance to hang out with adorable, friendly bunnies while enjoying some socially-distanced meditating. Is this what heaven is supposed to be like?

Matthiessen Hike: The Pritzker Outdoors Club organized the outdoor event of the year: a hike through beautiful Matthiessen State Park. We enjoyed seeing scenic waterfalls, exploring little caves, and trying to cross creeks without falling in.

