



The Healthgrades 2021 America's 250 Best Hospitals Award™ places SJO in the top five percent of nearly 4,500 hospitals assessed nationwide for superior clinical performance as measured by Healthgrades, the leading resource that connects consumers, physicians and health systems. This is the second year in a row the hospital received this prestigious award.

COVID-19 Updates

Stay up-to-date on the latest information on the vaccine rollout, measures to help stop the spread of COVID-19, crisis care guidelines and more on what we're doing to safeguard the health and well-being of our patients, caregivers and the community by visiting coronavirus.providence.org/social-updates.

St. Joseph Hospital Foundation's Annual Golf Tournament is set for Monday, July 19, 2021, at Pelican Hill Golf Club, Newport Beach. Please join us for a day of world-class golf supporting world-class care in the Progressive Care Unit. For more information email sjofoundation@providence.org.

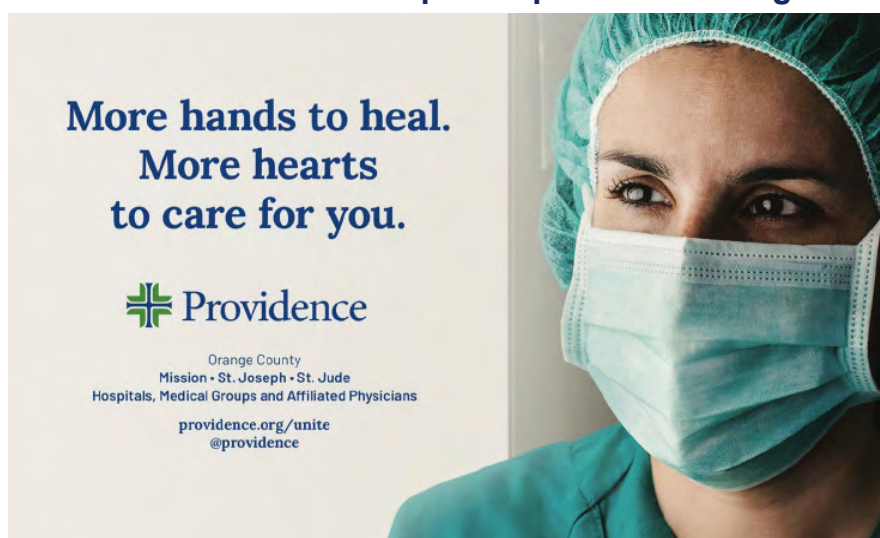


Ending Delayed Care

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has rescinded the order on Hospital Surge due to "improving conditions at hospitals statewide, including the continuing decline in positive COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations." With the order lifted, we will continue to thoughtfully and carefully resume needed surgeries and procedures in the coming days and weeks. It will take time to transition to a full surgical schedule while remaining compliant with state safety guidelines. A committee is currently working through a backlog of surgeries and procedures that were previously delayed and identifying which cases can safely be rescheduled.

Many patients have delayed preventive care due to COVID-19. Please assure your patients that it's safe and essential to schedule mammograms, colonoscopies, prostate checks and other diagnostic tests that could detect cancer in the early stages when it's most treatable. Parents are urged to make sure their children's wellness visits are up-to-date. Patients have also delayed care for symptoms of heart attack, stroke, infection and other conditions, resulting in serious complications, including death. The Emergency Department is open to provide emergent care to those who need it. To ensure everyone's safety, all patients are screened for symptoms of COVID-19. Those who test positive are separated from the general population to contain spread of the virus.

Providence St. Joseph Hospital Rebranding



This month, Providence launches a system-wide, multimillion dollar rebranding campaign. This multifaceted advertising campaign will increase awareness about our integrated health system in Southern California. Advertisements like this will be appearing at John Wayne Airport, on 405 freeway billboards, at OC Triangle Square, Del Amo Mall and at bus shelters, as well in prints ads of the LA Times, OC Register and Orange County Business Journal. The expansive branding campaign also includes television and digital ads, NPR and Pandora audio ads, and Facebook/Instagram and Twitter social media placement.

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SUBMISSIONS SOUGHT: Please send your news items to: 714-771-8056 or SJOMEDICALSTAFF@stjoe.org

FEBRUARY IS AMERICAN HEART MONTH: A Call for Action on Air Pollution-related Heart Disease

Four leading cardiovascular organizations — World Heart Federation (WHF), American College of Cardiology (ACC), American Heart Association (AHA) and European Society of Cardiology (ESC) — have jointly called for the medical community and health authorities to take action to mitigate the harmful effects of air pollution. The statement was published simultaneously January 28 in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, *Circulation*, the *European Heart Journal* and *Global Heart*.



Air pollution has been shown to increase the risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD), including myocardial infarction and stroke, as well as diabetes and respiratory diseases. Recent evidence also suggests air pollution increases the risk of more severe COVID-19 and death from COVID-19, they note. Air pollution may also increase the risk of novel coronavirus transmission due to its impact on more frequent coughing.

The authors call for structural actions to reduce emissions of air pollutants and harmful exposure. They also call on health care providers to:

- Advocate for air pollution mitigation as a health measure, further research on air quality and its impact on CVD, and interventions to reduce air pollution and its effect on noncommunicable disease.
- Provide patients with personal measures to reduce exposure, such as room air filtration systems.
- Integrate air pollution into disease management approaches, such as with the use of air quality indices.

- Participate in development of air pollution/CVD guidelines.
- Help raise awareness on the cardiovascular benefits of clean air.

“Clinicians have a responsibility to educate their patients, their colleagues and their communities at large on the connection between air pollution and cardiovascular disease risk,” Richard Kovacs, MD, senior author of the joint statement and immediate past-president of the ACC, said in the news release.

– *Medscape*, Jan. 29, 2021

Welcome New Medical Staff



John Alevizos, DO
Family Practice
Alevizos Medical



Sherif N. Meckael, MD
Anesthesiology
Allied Anesthesia
Medical Group