



MARYLAND ACTION COALITION

Creating a Healthier Maryland

FUTURE OF NURSING™ CAMPAIGN FOR ACTION

Creating a COVID-19 Unit for Our Community

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Abstract

The University of Maryland Medical Center Midtown Campus serves the West Baltimore community. During the COVID-19 surge, as the number of patient impacted by the virus increased, the availability of COVID-19 beds decreased.

Understanding the need for the community and the demand, the nursing administration in conjunction with Incident Command led a multidisciplinary team empowered to develop staff and open a COVID-19 unit within the structure of an existing medical-surgical telemetry unit.

The multidisciplinary team consisted of nurses, physicians, operations team members, pharmacists, facilities, housekeeping staff, dietary staff, lab staff, radiologists, materials management staff, and more. Protocols were developed, staff were educated, a staffing models was developed, and protective equipment officers (a new role) were hired to ensure staff safety in terms of donning and doffing personal protective equipment.

A new financial cost center was developed for the unit, and the unit was opened in October, 2020, serving over 250 COVID-19-positive patients to date.

The community values the COVID-19 unit and the nurses and physicians who are trained to care for COVID-19 patients and the staff value the social responsibility of being able to care for our community.