

**\*FCC Grant**

(Continued from page 1.) appointments were completed monthly. Today, thanks to 144-plus trainings for providers and departments early in the pandemic by telehealth team members, about 459 Medical Center providers use telehealth to remotely visit their patients. Those caregivers practice across 14 School of Medicine departments.

The funding “will support a lot of the infrastructure that will position the institution to provide the highest quality digital and telehealth health care possible,” said Julio Cespedes, the Center for Telehealth’s director of

telehealth innovation, design and implementation.

“We’re lucky to have a lot of capacity in telehealth,” he said of the Center, one of just two Telehealth Centers of Excellence in the nation. “This will allow us to think about how to do this with best practices, in a much more sustainable way.”

The grant is being used to support additional COVID-19 triage and telemedicine visits with providers, both video and audio-only. Caregivers at the Center also are continuing to perform acute patient triage and screening in addition to scheduling testing for patients with COVID-19 risk factors.

The grant also will support upgrades to the Center’s phone systems, webcams and networks so that providers can better communicate in a virtual setting throughout UMMC’s hospitals and clinics, reducing the risk of exposure to patients and providers alike and lowering use of critical personal protective equipment.

Grant funding also will fuel the immediate expansion of non-COVID-19-related telehealth services for both routine and urgent care.

“The FCC recognizes the importance of strengthening telehealth capabilities as providers work to treat coronavirus patients while continuing to provide other medical services,” said U.S. Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, R-Miss.,

a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, via a news release. “I’m grateful for these new FCC resources and hope to see more.

“Mississippi was a leader in telemedicine services before the pandemic, and these grants should work to build on that success.”

The FCC support “positions us to continue to be a leader in screening as many patients as possible for COVID-19,” Cespedes said. “It helps us to give our clinical areas the opportunity to continue to do telehealth in a way that best works for them.”

The pandemic forced the March cancellation or postponement of most UMMC outpatient appointments. The Center dramatically increased virtual visits using its UMMC2You platform, and in March alone, patients used it a total 4,723 times, a 286 percent increase over the 1,230 appointments in February 2020. That skyrocketed to 11,717 UMMC2You consultations in April, and remained high in May at 5,697 consultations.

Just as critical has been the Medical Center’s telehealth and physical support of COVID-19 testing at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds in

Jackson and dozens of one-day testing sites throughout Mississippi. Testing at the Fairgrounds on June 1 moved to the West Street Farmers Market at the corner of West and Woodrow Wilson Avenue in Jackson. As of June 3, a total 10,134 had been tested at those drive-through collection sites.

Mississippians having symptoms of the virus or a known or suspected exposure continue to be screened by telehealth providers by calling the Center at (601) 496-7200 or by going to umc.edu/covidscreening. A provider schedules an appointment for those qualifying, either at the West Street Farmers Market or at the nearest one-day site coordinated by UMMC and the Mississippi State Department of Health.

As of June 3, 11,186 people had been screened for COVID-19 by the Center for Telehealth. Center providers also are staffing a COVID-19 testing hotline for UMMC employees that had fielded 3,741 calls as of June 3.

That testing re-directs patients who might have sought care in emergency departments or local clinics, possibly exposing others to the

virus or unnecessarily taxing critical health care resources. Close to 76 percent of inquiries so far have led to testing, and a significant overall volume of all COVID-19 tests collected and completed for the Mississippi has originated from the mobile testing and employee hotline.

The Center makes phone calls to give those tested their results and coordinates testing site schedules, lists of patients with appointments, and collection of testing specimens at each site.

“One of the pluses of this has been that more providers

have tried telehealth, and I expect that will continue to go up,” Davis said. “Those who were hesitant in the past have tried it, and they have found value in using it. On the patient side, some of them had no choice but to try it. Now, they’ve been exposed to it.”

Although dramatically increasing telehealth reach in the face of COVID-19 was a challenge, Davis said, “it was long overdue. You don’t realize how much you need something until you need it.

“We will be more prepared than ever going forward.”



**Conservation Corner**

by James Cummins  
Executive Director  
of Wildlife Mississippi

Outdoor recreation is enjoyed by nearly every one of us. It provides economic, mental, physical, and social benefits. Recognition of the value of recreation and the importance of June as a time of recreational activity prompted Presidential designation of June as Great Outdoors Month. The month highlights the shared resources of our parks, forests, refuges, and other public lands and water. The central

goal is to get people to participate in outdoor recreation and enjoy it.

Great Outdoors Month is a time for all Americans to share in the natural splendor of which we are all proud inheritors. Whether camping, fishing, rock climbing, or playing in a neighborhood park, nature offers each of us the opportunity to get active, explore, and strengthen our bonds with family and (Continued on page 8.)

**Bridal Registry**

Nikki Merchant  
Trent Boutwell  
June 26

Eryca Edwards  
Andrew Gilmore  
August 8

**Peoples Drug Store**

Court Square 834-2721 Lexington

2019 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report  
Ebenezer Rural Water Association  
PWS ID#: 0250007  
May 2020

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. Our water source is from wells drawing from the Meridian Upper Wilcox Aquifer.

The source water assessment has been completed for our public water system to determine the overall susceptibility of its drinking water supply to identify potential sources of contamination. A report containing detailed information on how the susceptibility determinations were made has been furnished to our public water system and is available for viewing upon request. The wells for the Ebenezer Rural Water Association have received a moderate susceptibility ranking to contamination.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Thomas E. Haffey, Jr. at 662-834-3396. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend the meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 9/08/20, at 7:00 PM at the Ebenezer Fire Department.

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. In cases where monitoring wasn't required in 2019, the table reflects the most recent results. As water travels over the surface of land or underground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials and can pick up substances or contaminants from the presence of animals or from human activity, microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm-water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm-water runoff, and residential uses; organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations and septic systems; radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

**Action Level** - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - The "Goal"(MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)** - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG)** - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk of health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter** - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

TEST RESULTS								
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL(A)/CL(MRDL)	Unit Measure -ment	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>								
10. Barium	N	2018*	.0022	No Range	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
13. Chromium	N	2018*	2.7	No Range	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits
14. Copper	N	2015/17*	.2	0	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
17. Lead	N	2015/17*	1	0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	N	2019	74000	No Range	PPB	0	0	Road Salt, Water Treatment Chemicals, Water Softeners and Sewage Effluents
<b>Disinfection By-Products</b>								
81. HAA5	N	2019	.34	No Range	ppb	0	60	By-Product of drinking water disinfection.
82. TTHM (Total trihalomethanes)	N	2019	37.6	No Range	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.
Chlorine	N	2019	1.1	.8 - 1.2	mg/l	0	MDRL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes

\* Most recent sample. No sample required for 2019.

As you can see by the table, our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and testing that some contaminants have been detected however the EPA has determined that your water is SAFE at these levels.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a monthly basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. In an effort to ensure systems complete all monitoring requirements, MSDH now notifies systems of any missing samples prior to the end of the compliance period.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. The Mississippi State Department of Health Public Health Laboratory offers lead testing. Please contact 601.576.7582 if you wish to have your water tested.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1.800.426.4791.

The Ebenezer Rural Water Association works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Notice: This report will not be mailed to each customer.

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**ACROSS**

- 1) Used to be
- 5) Roll an untimely seven (with "out")
- 9) Fur wrap
- 14) Tough type of exam
- 15) Edible part of a parsnip
- 16) Word with "tiger" or "trail"
- 17) Equivocate
- 20) Coyote's favorite company
- 21) Cone midway?
- 22) Marred by discolored spots
- 26) Just OK
- 30) Fill with bubbles
- 31) Be worried
- 32) Stag party?
- 33) They have a central meeting place
- 34) "Ten" or "pen" suffix
- 35) Tetherball fixture
- 36) Certain facial application
- 39) Mine opening
- 40) Wahine's dance
- 41) Come in
- 43) Longtime anchor Rather
- 44) Laundry pile
- 45) "GoodFellas" star
- 46) Shellfish offerings at a bar
- 48) Tactful handling
- 49) Printer's widths
- 50) Be a snitch
- 51) What procrastinators may do
- 59) Short-tailed lemur
- 60) Sanction wrongdoing
- 61) State categorically
- 62) Metabolism type
- 63) Free from contaminants
- 64) Small storage unit

**DOWN**

- 1) "I'm impressed!"
- 2) Stat for a pitcher
- 3) WWII fliers
- 4) Prankster with pointy shoes
- 5) Tableau of Mary, Joseph and Jesus
- 6) Far from cramped
- 7) Top-rated
- 8) Sch. support org.
- 9) Small piano
- 10) Cop's enforcer
- 11) Photo \_\_\_ (camera sessions)
- 12) 100 bani, in Romania
- 13) Kipling preposition
- 18) Derived from milk
- 19) Period of prayer
- 22) Setting for many jokes
- 23) Feb. 29
- 24) Installs, as a minister
- 25) Tarnish
- 26) Wine feature
- 27) Rabbitlike rodents
- 28) Eager drinkers
- 29) It can be rolled or batted
- 31) Chase flies or grounders
- 34) Antarctic predators
- 35) Tubular pasta
- 37) When repeated, a plea of Richard III
- 38) One way to be aware
- 39) Shakespearean commotion
- 42) Type of deer
- 44) Soup legume
- 45) Broaden, as a pupil
- 47) Common aquarium fish
- 48) Not so many
- 50) Forbidden perfume?
- 51) Minor falsehood
- 52) Messenger molecule
- 53) Verification docs
- 54) Music genre
- 55) Pickup at a 22-Down
- 56) Creeping vine
- 57) Bow \_\_\_ (witticism)
- 58) Meadow mother

**BREAKFAST IS READY**

By Gary Cooper

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62						63			64				