EAST CHICAGO life

YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR EAST CHICAGO NEWS AND EVENTS

EXCEPTIONAL HEALTHCARE CLOSE TO HOME

City of East Chicago
Hope & Progress
INDIANA

FREE AT-HOME COVID TESTS

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order four free at-home COVID-19 tests. The tests are completely free and orders usually ship in 7-12 days.

Already purchased an at-home over-the-counter COVID diagnostic test from a pharmacy or store? Your health insurance company will pay you back for eight at-home tests per month for each person on the insurance plan.

INFO: Simply visit **COVIDtests.gov** to order your free tests or learn more about reimbursement.



[Steve Segura photo]

THE RIGHT CARE. RIGHT AT HOME.

As we begin 2022, I want to recognize an army of individuals and two hometown institutions dedicated to keeping us well every day. This issue of East Chicago Life is dedicated to our city health department and St. Catherine Hospital, our partners in health.

Together, these institutions and dedicated professionals work tirelessly to care for our health no matter what our needs.

I am excited when I see what's happening at St. Catherine. One of the first in the country to offer radiation therapy to treat cancer in the last century, this hospital has big plans in its next century of operation.

In just five years, the hospital has invested $33.8 million on renovations and upgrades — in cancer care, robotic surgery, tumor-treating technology, behavioral health, emergency medicine and even in the hospital cafeteria, known simply as Harbor Cafe. They're adding acute-care beds, which will number 239 when the new intermediate care unit opens this year. And, they're not done yet. They're already looking at future projects to serve the residents of East Chicago.

Right now, the health department and hospital are focused on doing all they can to tackle this pandemic. It's our job to help them.

If you haven't been vaccinated or boosted, do it: Today.

ANTHONY COPELAND
Mayor City of East Chicago





[COVID TESTING] **The East Chicago Health Department, 100 W. Chicago Ave., offers COVID testing from 9-11:30 a.m. and from 1-3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8-11:30 a.m. every second and fourth Saturday. No ID or license is required. There is no registration or online appointments. Test are administered on a first-come, first-served basis. QUESTIONS? Call (219) -391-8467.** [Ryan Lomax photos]

LATEST COVID SURGE HITS EAST CHICAGO

When COVID surged again over the holidays, it did not spare East Chicago.

Unvaccinated residents continue to outnumber those who have gotten protection through shots and boosters. More residents are coming for boosters, instead of first- or second-vaccine doses.

Health Department Director Diana Garcia-Burns is ever hopeful people will realize the value of the vaccines to prevent COVID or minimize its impact.

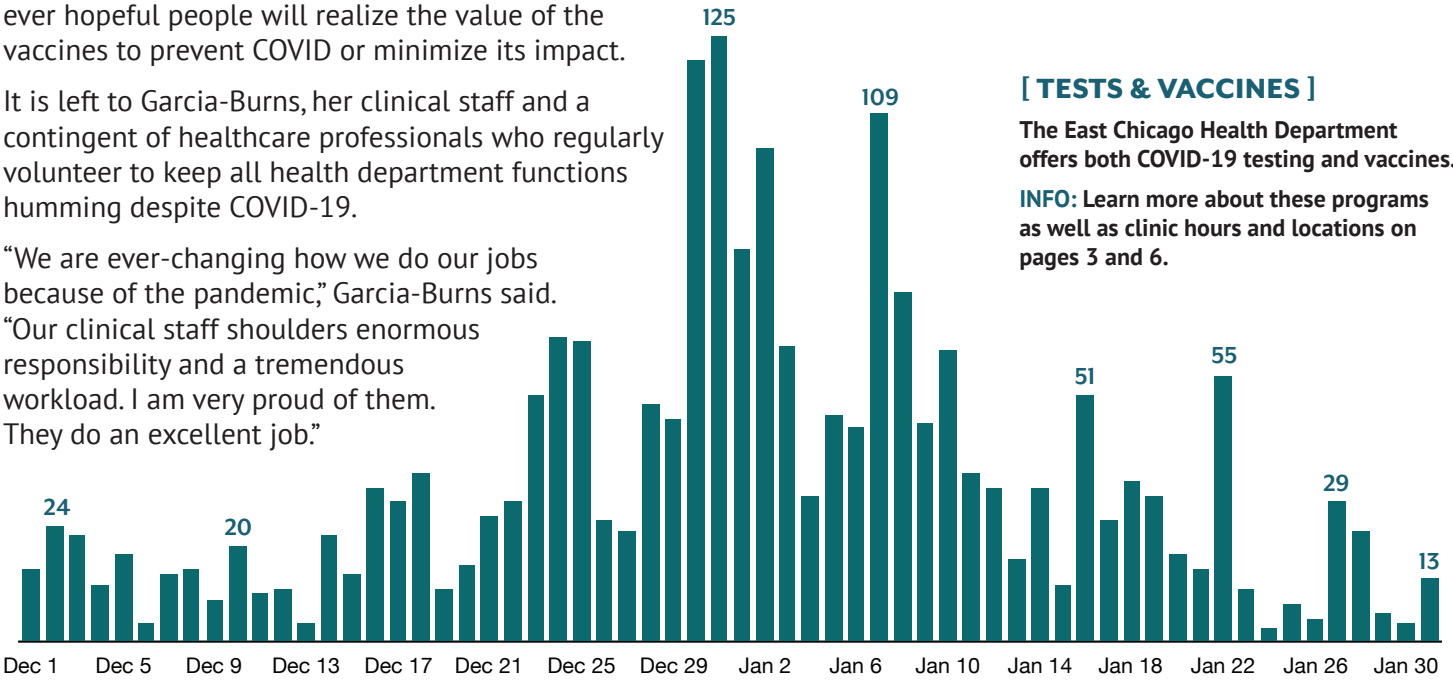
It is left to Garcia-Burns, her clinical staff and a contingent of healthcare professionals who regularly volunteer to keep all health department functions humming despite COVID-19.

"We are ever-changing how we do our jobs because of the pandemic," Garcia-Burns said. "Our clinical staff shoulders enormous responsibility and a tremendous workload. I am very proud of them. They do an excellent job."

[EAST CHICAGO COVID-19 CASES]

The East Chicago Health Department has administered thousands of COVID-19 tests during this latest surge and more than 2,000 individuals have tested positive for the virus since December 1. Here's a look at the daily numbers.

Wear masks. Wash hands. Get vaccinated. Get boosted.



[TESTS & VACCINES]

The East Chicago Health Department offers both COVID-19 testing and vaccines.

INFO: Learn more about these programs as well as clinic hours and locations on pages 3 and 6.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT OFFERS MORE THAN TESTING ...



A big thank you to Elite Ambulance (above left), which supports the COVID-19 vaccine clinic. [Steve Segura photo]



The East Chicago Health Department — one of only two city health departments in Indiana — is responsible for vital records, emergency preparedness as well as food and environmental inspections. Here's a look at its divisions:

[NURSING DIVISION]

The Nursing Division provides an array of clinical services – communicable disease testing, reporting, surveillance, lead, pregnancy and HIV testing – to East Chicago residents at a reduced cost.

In addition to COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters, the Nursing Division also provides adult immunizations such as tetanus and flu.

FLU SHOTS: Flu shots are available on Thursdays. No appointment is necessary. Fee is $25 for nonresidents. Free for seniors and city employees.

QUESTIONS? Please call (219) 391-391-8258.

[IMMUNIZATION DIVISION]

The Immunization Division provides vaccination for children ages 2 months to 18 years of age.

APPOINTMENTS: Please call (219) 392-1600.

[ANIMAL CONTROL DIVISION]

The East Chicago Health Department is the only health department in northwest/central Indiana that operates an Animal Control Division at the local level.

INFO: Call (219) 391-8364 report a stray, lost, injured or dangerous animal. After 4 p.m., please call the police non-emergency services (219) 660-0000.

ADOPTIONS: Visit the East Chicago Animal Control page on Facebook for the latest adoptable pets.

[INSPECTIONS DIVISION]

The East Chicago Health Department is also responsible for ensuring local landlords, business owners and food handlers provide safe, clean, habitable environments for residents in both commercial and residential settings.

INFO: To fill a complaint, call (219) 391-8467.

[FOR MORE INFORMATION]

Visit health department at **eastchicago.com** for more information about fees, services and hours. No cash. Only debit, credit and money orders are accepted.

ST. CATHERINE HOSPITAL

In just the last five years, St. Catherine Hospital has invested $33.8 million in capital improvements. "These investments are important to the well-being of our patients, growth of the local economy and future of this hospital," CEO Leo Correa said. "Our enhancements and improvements point to our longevity and commitment to serve the residents of East Chicago — now, and in the future."





General Surgeon Carlos Gonzalez, MD, medical director of robotic surgery, and the nursing team perform minimally-invasive procedures using the daVinci™ Xi robot. Once considered major surgery, prostate removal, hysterectomies, thyroid removal, gastric bypass and gallbladder surgery are performed using the daVinci™ Xi today. The advantage: less pain and quicker recovery.

[NEW CYBERKNIFE® SYSTEM]

The most advanced CyberKnife® system will be put into use this summer. CyberKnife® combines the most advanced technology with robotic precision to target tumors while sparing healthy tissue. St. Catherine Hospital was an innovator when it brought CyberKnife® to Northwest Indiana in 2005. The East Chicago hospital was only the 26th in the nation to provide a non-surgical procedure that delivers high doses of radiation to cancerous and benign tumors anywhere in the body, including the prostate, lung, brain, spine, liver, pancreas and kidney. The radiosurgery system treats tumors once deemed inoperable. With the installation of the newest CyberKnife®, that trend of being a leader in cancer treatment continues.



[NEW PATIENT EXPERIENCE]

Patient rooms on 6West are enlarged and updated as the hospital prepares to open a 36-bed Intermediate Care Unit in that space early this year. With completion of a third inpatient Behavioral Health unit, St. Catherine Hospital has expanded and is now a 239-bed acute care facility, with 166 of those beds allocated for medical/surgical patient needs and 64 accommodating inpatient behavioral health needs. A hub of emergency care long before COVID-19 arrived is undergoing a facelift of its own. Emergency Department exam rooms and the unit's central nursing station are being renovated to provide a more tranquil and efficient healing environment.

EXPANSION AND GROWTH OVER THE YEARS

St. Catherine Hospital has expanded its footprint and its n

1920s	1930s	1940s	1950s	1960s	197
Hospital is dedicated on April 22, 1928.	Founded Indiana's first school of X-ray in 1936.	The Fir Street annex is built in 1945.	Block Memorial Wing opens in 1959.	First hospital in the region to perform open heart surgery.	A professional building is ad 1971.



The American College of Radiology named St. Catherine Hospital a Breast Imaging Center of Excellence in 2021. The three-year certification allows radiologists, certified breast health navigators and licensed technologists to use best practices in detecting breast cancer in the early stages when it is most treatable. Screenings and diagnostics are provided with same-day results.



Oncologist and Hematologist Amer Sidani, MD, and the infusion center staff care for the growing number of patients who are treated for severe and chronic diseases/infections with infusions of intravenous therapies over a period of hours at the hospital.



[NEW CANCER AND INFUSION CENTER]

From monoclonal antibodies to treat COVID-19 to chemotherapy infusions for cancer, infusion centers have grown in use as the number of therapies that fall under that umbrella skyrocket. When St. Catherine Hospital looked to expand and upgrade its cancer care last year, hospital CEO Leo Correa (above right) said planners took a comprehensive look at every facet of care, incorporating a spacious new infusion center that is integral to the new Cancer and Infusion Center with CyberKnife™, robotic surgery and a multidisciplinary team of cancer care specialists.

Since infusion can take several hours, Correa said the team took great care to offer amenities in a soothing environment with support from cancer care navigators for a positive patient experience. "With each new project, our physicians and healthcare professionals are able to provide better outcomes and improve care through the latest technologies and treatments," he said. "We take great pride in working with East Chicago residents to make St. Catherine Hospital a premier healthcare destination."





[NEW HARBOR CAFÉ]

A beautiful, new Harbor Café with cafeteria-style dining, a culinary events station and grab-and-go food made its debut for staff, patient families and visitors just as the COVID-19 pandemic began. Today, the spacious dining area offers guests hot-and-cold meal choices in a modern setting with atrium window views to the South Lobby garden.

ational reputation for award-winning care close to home.

0s	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s	2020s
l office ded in	The patient tower is built in 1987.	Family Birthing Center opens in 1997.	Hospital becomes the 26th CyberKnife® location in the nation.	Hospital unveils $2 million renovation of 16-bed ICU.	St. Catherine Hospital invests $33.8 million in capital improvements.

COVID VACCINATIONS AND BOOSTERS

Did you know that only 41.5 percent of East Chicago residents are vaccinated? That trails the state vaccination rate of 55.2 percent. The East Chicago Health Department is administering Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines and boosters. No appointment is necessary, but highly encouraged. Please call for inventory available.

CHILDREN'S VACCINES

COVID-19 vaccinations are available to all residents 5 years and older with a parent or guardian present. The clinic hours for children's vaccines are:

Monday: 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.
Friday: 8:30-11:30 a.m.
Where: East Chicago Health Department, 100 W. Chicago
Info: Call (219) 392-1600.

ADULT VACCINES

The vaccination clinic hours for adults are as follows:

Tuesday and Wednesday: 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m.
Thursday: 9-11:30 a.m.
Second and Fourth Saturdays: 9-11:30 a.m.
Where: East Chicago Health Department, 100 W. Chicago
Info: Call (219) 391-8258.

HOMEBOUND VACCINE PROGRAM

The health department will vaccinate residents who are homebound.

Info: Call (219) 391-8258 for more information.

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EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA 46312

COVID TESTING & THE VACCINATED

You did your part by getting vaccinated, but you still have an important role to play in stopping this pandemic!

Some people who are vaccinated still get COVID-19. If you have symptoms, especially if you've been around someone with COVID-19, you should get tested.





By getting tested, you protect the people around you, including your loved ones.

Encourage your friends and family to get vaccinated.

Remember, if you feel sick, get tested!

FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.cdc.gov/covidtesting

