

# BREAST CANCER

## A W A R E N E S S



## Breast Cancer Screening is Still Important During the COVID-19 Pandemic

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the American Cancer Society is urging women to talk to their doctors to find out what screening options and treatments are best for them.

**A**t the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, elective medical procedures, including cancer screening, were largely put on hold to prioritize urgent needs and reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19 in healthcare settings. One consequence of this has been a substantial decline in cancer screening.

As states re-open businesses and ease restrictions, many healthcare facilities are starting to offer elective procedures again, including cancer screening. Restarting cancer screening requires careful consideration of the risks and benefits of screening, along with ensuring safety for both patients and healthcare personnel.

Decisions about restarting screening depend on many factors, and they may not be the same for every person. They will likely vary by community while the pandemic

continues.

If an appointment was made for screening that was postponed or canceled, patients should talk to their healthcare team about when to reschedule. Providers can discuss balancing the risks and benefits of being screened now or postponing for a later date, considering personal and family history, other risk factors, and the timing of the last screening test.

“Finding breast cancer early and getting high-quality cancer treatment are the most important strategies to prevent deaths from breast cancer. Getting regular screening tests is a critically important part of finding breast cancer early,” said Dr. Laura Makaroff, Senior Vice President, Prevention and Early Detection for the American Cancer Society. “Breast cancer screening disparities are already evident and without focused attention, are

likely to increase as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Efforts to promote breast cancer screening and overcome barriers for populations with low screening prevalence must be at the forefront of our focus,” said Makaroff.

Many women get an annual mammogram for breast cancer screening. However, leading organizations that issue screening guidelines recommend that average risk women ages 55 and older can be screened every two years. Women 55 or older who had a normal mammogram within the last year could choose to have their next mammogram up to 24 months after your last one.

As your regular facility for health care returns to providing cancer screening, it’s important that it is done as safely as possible. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommendations for healthcare facilities to reduce the risk of COVID transmission:

- Screening centers should be available to answer questions from patients via phone or web portal before and/or after the screening procedure.

- Patients should be pre-screened for COVID-related symptoms before screening appointments.
- Scheduling of appointments should allow for physical distancing between patients, and longer appointment times, if needed, to avoid crowding in waiting rooms and patient care areas.
- There should be limitations on visitors other than patients and/or their caregivers into the screening facility.
- If not done in front of the patient, the screening center should be able to explain how often equipment and surfaces are disinfected and cleaned.
- Everyone, including patients and staff, should wear a face covering or face mask, where appropriate. There should be frequent handwashing and use of hand sanitizer by staff, patients, and visitors.

*Information for this article was provided by the American Cancer Society. Learn more at [cancer.org](https://www.cancer.org).*

## BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

# Breast Cancer Angels Celebrates 20th Anniversary Helping Breast Cancer Patients with Basic Needs

By MARIANNE MELLEKA BOULES

While curing breast cancer through research is a long-term solution (and, indeed, a multi-billion-dollar research initiative), there is much to be said about organizations who help in the here and now – organizations who help breast cancer patients in times of crisis. The reality is that while we must indeed forge new discoveries in medicine to end breast cancer once and for all, our enthusiasm must be tempered with the reality that people are suffering from the effects of breast cancer today, and they are in urgent need of help today.

When people are diagnosed with breast cancer, they often must quit their jobs in order to focus on healing. Yet by quitting their jobs, they lose their health insurance: but still have bills to pay. Needless to say, the loss of income can be crippling. Now, not only must they focus on healing while taking care of their family, but they must also somehow find the money to pay for their most basic needs.

The COVID-19 pandemic has only compounded the issue, as patients must add “avoid a deadly global virus” to their workload. While COVID may have a low fatality rate, it is deadly for those undergoing chemotherapy. Luckily, Breast Cancer Angels has answered the call for help in Southern California. Based in Los Alamitos, this nonprofit organization

operates on a razor-thin overhead model to help as many women as possible; over 1,800 individuals and their families receive support from Breast Cancer Angels each year.

These are not families in a permanent state of homelessness; rather, these are families whose medical diagnosis has brought them on the brink of homelessness. Breast Cancer Angels is the only nonprofit organization that meets this critical need by providing financial assistance to keep families afloat. Often, we singlehandedly keep these families off the street by providing the help they need such as rent and utility assistance, grocery and transportation assistance, and so much more.

This year, Breast Cancer Angels is celebrating 20 years of service in the Southern California community, but it coincides with the devastating economic impact the virus has caused, and the organization is not exempt. Now, over 1,000 women and their families who depend on Breast Cancer Angels while undergoing chemotherapy are at risk of losing the financial support they receive to stay afloat.

In such an unprecedented time of a global pandemic, individuals with cancer are more vulnerable than ever. It is up to the community — businesses and foundations like yours — who can rally together to bolster our most vulnerable through nonprofit organizations like Breast Cancer Angels.

*Breast Cancer Angels needs your help, and the families the organization looks after need your help! Visit [breastcancerangels.org](http://breastcancerangels.org) to learn how you can help women with breast cancer survive these extremely turbulent times.*

**In such an unprecedented time, individuals with cancer are more vulnerable than ever.**



## REAL ESTATE STRATEGIES FOR INDUSTRIAL SPACE

### FREE WEBINAR

**OCTOBER 28 | 2:00 - 3:00 PM**

Please join us for part II of our **Real Estate Strategies Series: Industrial Space**. A free webinar dedicated to discussing how the current economic climate is affecting industrial space in Los Angeles. Learn from market leaders as they share their insights and outlooks for the industrial markets.

#### TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

- State of the Industrial Market
- Impacts of e-commerce
- Industrial Redevelopment
- Alternative Industrial Solutions

### PANELISTS



**John DeGrinis**  
Executive Managing Director  
Newmark Knight Frank



**John McMillan**  
Vice Chairman  
Newmark Knight Frank



**Rob Antrobus**  
SVP, Market Officer  
Prologis

**REGISTER HERE** [labusinessjournal.com/REStrategiesIndustrial](http://labusinessjournal.com/REStrategiesIndustrial)



# CITY OF DISCOVERY

At City of Hope, our breakthrough cancer treatments allow patients to lead longer, fuller lives. Our pioneering research was the catalyst for the development of four of the world's most widely used cancer drugs, and we've performed more than 16,000 bone marrow and stem cell transplants with unparalleled survival rates. Hundreds of clinical trials are currently underway to deliver even more innovative, lifesaving treatments directly to those who need them most. Our relentless pursuit of scientific discoveries is driven by our unwavering commitment to help cancer patients everywhere, now and in the future. **Discover more at [CityofHope.org](https://www.cityofhope.org)**



## BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

# Emanate Health to Host Free, Virtual Conference

**E**manate Health, the largest health care system in the San Gabriel Valley, will host the virtual “COVID-19 & the San Gabriel Valley” Conference, Saturday, October 24, 2020, at 9 a.m. offering the state of the virus in the valley and outlining the future of health care delivery in the region. Visit the Emanate Health website to register.

“For more than seven months, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on families throughout the Valley, as many try to manage work, school and health care disruptions in their households,” said Emanate Health Chief Executive Officer Robert H. Curry. “The ‘COVID-19 & the San Gabriel Valley’ Conference offers science-based tips to help our communities and families, as well as civic leaders and community organizations to remain safe and informed, while strongly urging everyone not to delay your health care.”

With the coronavirus still making headlines across the globe, Este Geraghty, MD, MS, MPH, GISP, Chief Medical Officer and Health Solutions Director, Esri, will trace the origins and presence of COVID-19 around the world, drilling down to the United States and the San Gabriel Valley. Dr. Geraghty works for Esri, the developer of the world’s most powerful mapping and analytics platform, which was utilized to help create the COVID-19 dashboard that Johns Hopkins University employs to quantify cases and deaths across the globe. Her presentation, which is titled, “COVID-19, Innovation and the Future,” will outline the importance of innovation during a crisis and how those learnings will influence the doc-

tor-patient relationship of the future.

Emanate Health Infectious Disease Control physician, Sohanjeet Bassi, MD—in his presentation, “COVID-19: Becoming a Healthy San Gabriel Valley Now & Beyond”—will outline what government leaders, community organizations and the general public can do to remain safe from coronavirus with the arrival of the seasonal flu. This is happening while the pharmaceutical industry races against the clock to develop a COVID-19 vaccine to help hospitals worldwide bring the pandemic to a hopeful end.

Curry’s presentation, “The State of Emanate Health and Our Future,” will outline what the health system’s three facilities and emergency rooms at Inter-Community Hospital, Queen of the Valley Hospital, Foothill Presbyterian Hospital, Outpatient Services center, and primary & specialty locations are doing now and to prepare for the future to keep the one million people it serves safe and healthy in the face of the global pandemic.

“Scientists, doctors and public health experts say that novel coronaviruses, like COVID-19, may be with us for a long time,” said Emanate Health Chief Medical Officer Gurjeet Kalkat, MD. “At our virtual conference, we’ll offer the latest information on COVID-19 and what can be done to manage other coronaviruses at all levels. Emanate Health has already begun to treat the virus like other pre-existing conditions such as diabetes and heart problems, now that doctors have a much better handle on how best to care for our patients.”



To participate in the free “COVID-19 & the San Gabriel Valley” virtual conference, visit [emanatehealth.org/conference](http://emanatehealth.org/conference) to register. Participants will be encouraged to submit questions before and during the event. Once registered, participants will receive a link to the conference and other event materials. Sponsorship opportunities available by calling (626) 813-2978.

*Emanate Health is the largest nonprofit health care provider serving the one million residents of the San Gabriel Valley. The system provides specialized care in Behavioral Health, Cancer, Cardiovascular, Emergency, Neuroscience and*

*Stroke, Orthopedics, Sports Medicine, and Women’s Health. Its family of hospitals and hospice include Emanate Health Inter-Community in Covina, and Emanate Health Queen of the Valley in West Covina, Emanate Health Foothill Presbyterian in Glendora, Emanate Health Hospice and Emanate Health Home Care in West Covina, as well as other clinics throughout the region. Year after year the health care system has been voted “Best Hospital” and “Best Place to Work” and providers are consistently among the “Top Doctors” in Los Angeles County and hospitals are graded A for Patient Safety by The Leapfrog Group. Visit [emanatehealth.org](http://emanatehealth.org) for more information.*



## COVID-19 & The San Gabriel Valley

**Our FREE, Virtual Conference will be held Saturday, October 24, 2020, at 9 a.m.**

Our speakers will offer a global perspective on coronavirus, the national impact and regional implications about the future of our health care delivery.

Learn and ask questions (in real time) about the state of the virus in the San Gabriel Valley and learn about the future of health care delivery in the region.

**Register Now:**  
[emanatehealth.org/conference](http://emanatehealth.org/conference)

## You’re Invited!

### Speakers Include:



Robert H. Curry, CEO  
Emanate Health



Este Geraghty, MD, MS,  
MPH, GISP, Chief Medical  
Officer and Health  
Solutions Director, Esri



Sohanjeet S. Bassi, MD  
Infectious Disease  
Specialist, Emanate Health



**Moderator**  
Gurjeet Kalkat, MD  
Chief Medical Officer  
Emanate Health