

# LANCASTER SCIENCE FACTORY

Lots of  
**FUN**  
to think about.

## STEM IN ACTION

### *Profiles of STEM Professionals in our Community*

Professionals in a wide variety of STEM careers are working during the COVID-19 outbreak to continue essential services in our community.

The Lancaster Science Factory is pleased to present profiles of these individuals and how they're putting STEM in Action right now.



*Linette Arroyo, RN*

**What is your role at the Cancer Institute?**

I'm an oncology registered nurse in the clinic of the Ann B. Barshinger Cancer Institute. My primary role is to triage patients' symptoms from their cancer and treatments and provide a solution to those symptoms.

I also provide one on one education to patients and their families regarding their treatment, whether it be chemotherapy, immunotherapy, or another anti-cancer agent.

**How has it changed during the COVID-19 outbreak?**

All staff now are required to wear masks, safety goggles, and gloves with every patient contact. We are no longer allowing visitors into our building (unless patients are cognitively impaired or receiving extremely bad news). We are screening every patient and employee before they enter the building by asking symptom questions and checking their temperatures. It is now one of my roles as a nurse to be one of these screeners a couple times a week. Providers and nurses are encouraged to provide care over the phone or video instead of in person visits.

**From a science perspective, what do you want the community to know? Or, what do you wish they knew more about that would come in handy right now?**

The community has been told to wash their hands and wear masks, but there is a correct way and incorrect way to do both of these. People should wash their hands vigorously with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, then dry their hands, then turn off the faucet with the paper towel they used to dry their hands with (in that order). Wearing gloves and touching door handles or gas pumps, then touching your personal items, still passes along germs. Masks should be worn to cover the nose and the mouth when around other people, not just the mouth.

**As we look to scientists to provide us with the facts about this outbreak, we are reminded of just how essential STEM education is to our community. Could you share any reflections you've had on this topic recently?**

One of the main changes I've noticed is the use of technology during this time. Phone and video visits have been non-existent at the cancer institute before this outbreak. They were in the beginning stages of these types of visits, but this outbreak rushed everyone to **learn and adapt**. Providers, and patients, are learning how to use their computers and phones in a way to connect with each other that has been safe and convenient during this time.

**What have you been doing to stay sane during this time? Any media recommendations?**

I've been fortunate to be able to continue working, which has helped me stay sane. Since gyms are closed, I've been enjoying workouts outside at a local track and at home. I've also

continued to get take out food from local restaurants. Phone calls with family members and friends have also been great!

I like to listen to the Podcast NPR Up First, watch Mayor Sorace's live updates, and LG Health's news updates. ■



Do you know someone working in a STEM profession during the COVID-19 outbreak? We would love to feature them in an upcoming interview. Please reach out to [abakay@tlsf.org](mailto:abakay@tlsf.org) for more information.

*For more information about the Lancaster Science Factory and how you can support our nonprofit mission visit:*

*[www.LancasterScienceFactory.org](http://www.LancasterScienceFactory.org)*

