



# The NFL Draft and KPSC: Their Players and Ours

One recent story has broken through the persistent coronavirus news: the NFL draft. During the much-lauded, three-day event, 32 teams chose 255 players, with live-streaming and primetime network coverage. Some welcomed the diversion; others took no notice. After all, it ostensibly bears little relationship to our lives, at home or at KP.

Or does it? Some parallels are as clear as the uprights from 10 yards out. Consider these NFL:KP comparisons:

- **NFL:** A few teams selected quarterbacks, but most chose players to fill other crucial, supporting positions. As any sports fan knows, the back-lines win games – and seasons.  
**KPSC:** While the front-line workers fighting the coronavirus have been largely celebrated – and rightly so – they couldn't do it without the vital support of a full team of dedicated, hard-working health care staff.  
**Here's How:** "I wanted to honor the people behind the scenes," write Jun Huang, DO, physician-in-charge, Kaiser Permanente West Covina Medical Offices, "who don't always get credit. Yet they, too, put their lives at risk and are always there to support us. The EVS, the lab and X-ray technicians, the pharmacy staff, and so many more." [Dr. Huang recognizes them here.](#)
- **NFL:** Saints draftee Adam Trautman opted to forego his role as quarterback to bring essential new energy to his college team's tight end slot. In the course of a player's career or even mid-season, players may change positions, employing their talents as needed to help their team succeed.  
**KPSC:** When Kaiser Permanente saw the coronavirus coming, we re-wrote our playbook of standard operating practices. Everyone at Kaiser Permanente has had to adapted – and we've risen to the task.

**Here's How:** Kelly Huynh, MD, a West Los Angeles oncological surgeon, voluntarily redeployed to the ICU during this crisis. "It takes a team, an army," she observed. "You see everyone coming together, from every specialty. Nobody says no. You have to be adaptable and willing to evolve. We do it because want to help patients get healthy."

- **NFL:** The draft, a mega-event that kicks off intense pre-season training and preparation, went forward without a clear path to full stadiums this year, as the coronavirus throws its weighty uncertainty around.  
**KPSC:** Have we flattened the curve? Will the coronavirus return? Will the economy bounce back? Will there be widespread immunity? The ambiguity leaves us all in varying degrees of suspension. And yet we show up, work hard, power on, and plan for all eventualities – individually and as a team – to provide the absolute best care possible. We moved ahead based on our trust in the science, the systems, and each other despite the big unknowns facing us and the people we serve.  
**Here's How:** As Annie Russell, RN discussed in a recent [KPSC Town Hall](#), "We're looking at our response plan over the next 2, 6, and 12 months: to deal with any COVID-19 surges; to begin recalling staff and assimilating the postponed non-urgent care; and for what lies beyond as we adjust to the next new normal and new realities we will face. This will be a great opportunity to apply all that we have learned to re-invent ourselves, and leverage the enormous power of the interdependence we have witnessed among our people."