



3/16/2020

To Patients With Upcoming Appointments:

The outbreak of COVID-19 (coronavirus) has prompted changes in the usual procedures at our offices. Since the declaration of a pandemic by the world health organization and the recent diagnoses of this infection in our community, special precautions are necessary to protect the health and welfare of our patients as well as to do what we can to slow the transmission of this virus.

The symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to those of a cold or flu and may take up to 14 days to appear after exposure to the virus. People with fever, cough and difficulty breathing should seek medical attention from their primary care physician and stay away from public areas. Symptoms of this virus have proven to be highly variable, being very mild in some cases, and quite serious in others, particularly the elderly and those with heart disease, lung disease, and diabetes. Testing is important so that a diagnosis can be made promptly and any affected individual can self-quarantine so as not to spread the infection to others. If the symptoms are severe (high fever, shortness of breath), you should contact your primary care physician or hospital emergency department for guidance.

If you have an appointment with us and have a cough or fever, please call to reschedule your appointment. Your primary care physician is the most appropriate professional to consult for these symptoms. We are not equipped to test and treat for COVID-19 and will not see patients with these symptoms due to the risk of spread of disease to other patients and staff.

Our office will be open and will be taking special precautions to decrease the likelihood of viral spread. We will do everything in our power to maintain a safe environment for all of our patients while still providing you with the vital care you need. Where appropriate, established patients may also be seen through a telemedicine visit with your laptop computer, tablet, or smartphone. Please inquire with our receptionist if you are interested in this service.

The next thirty days will be decisive for our public health authorities in terms of their efforts to slow the progress of this virus. We should all remind ourselves at this time that while we may personally contract only a mild illness from this infection, our family members or friends may be severely affected if they are vulnerable due to age or illness. We must all do our part to insure the health and welfare of our community.

To your very best health,  
Phillip Noel, MD