

# CORONAVIRUS

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The CDC, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Maryland Dept of Health are recommending to continue well child/adolescent care visits according to the standard schedule during the COVID-19 pandemic. As you know, well child care includes important developmental and mental health screening, monitoring of growth, a thorough physical examination, vision and hearing, routine blood work, and vaccinations. If your child is due for a well-baby exam, a check-up, or a sports physical, please call today and schedule.

We are also available to see patients for many other types of visits that do not put our staff or other healthy patients at risk such as orthopedic and dermatologic conditions.

For everyone's safety, we will be asking screening questions before scheduling appointments in the office. This includes whether you or your child has a fever, cough, or sore throat,

and whether anyone in the house is being quarantined for COVID-19, has undergone testing for COVID-19, or has been exposed to someone with COVID-19. You will receive a phone call the day before the scheduled appointment during which a staff member will review the screening questions to assure that it is still safe to bring your child to our office.

If screening criteria are not met, as an alternative to an office visit we will offer a telemedicine appointment. Please refer to our section on telemedicine.

Other office policies instituted during the pandemic to reduce unnecessary viral exposures of our patients, their families, and our staff:

- Our walk-in hours are now cancelled. All appointments must be scheduled in advance. Well check-ups for our youngest and other high-risk patients will be scheduled during dedicated times in the mornings.
- If your child has mild cough, congestion, or fever symptoms that are manageable at home, please do not schedule an in-office appointment. We will be happy to assess your child's condition and discuss your child's care via a virtual visit.
- When arriving for an appointment, we request that only 1 person accompany the patient to the office in order to limit exposures within the office. Infant under 4 months are permitted to have 2 accompanying people.

- We ask that everyone coming into our office wears either a mask, a scarf or other covering brought from home, to cover the nose and mouth.
- **Once you arrive at our building, we request that you wait in your car, dial the office number and press option 3 to speak to the front desk. The receptionist will “check you in” and take your cell phone number. We will phone you when your room is ready and you will skip the waiting room.**
- Temperatures are taken for all staff and patients entering the office.
- Our staff will wear masks for all interactions. Additional protective equipment includes gloves, gowns and face shields.
- Providers are sanitizing their laptops, stethoscopes, and other medical equipment after each patient encounter.
- We will continue our practice of thorough cleaning of rooms between all patient visits, frequent cleaning of common areas, and professional cleaning of the entire office at the end of each day. Books, magazines, and toys have been removed from exam rooms to reduce viral transmission. Waiting rooms are now closed.
- We are not currently equipped to test for COVID-19 in our office. If you believe your child needs to be tested, please set up a virtual visit with one of our providers.

Thank you to all our families for your ongoing patience as we all work together to “flatten the curve”.

During these unprecedented times many of our patients may be losing benefits including health insurance. If your child is without health insurance, you can click here and look into Maryland Medicaid: <http://www.marylandhealthconnection.gov/>

Our practice accepts the following Medicaid insurances: Amerigroup, Priority Partners, United Community Plan, and Maryland Physician's Care.