

SIPM COVID-19 Preparedness

To all of our patients and families:

Key Points:

- If you require a follow up visit for renewal of a prescription, we will schedule a telemedicine visit for that purpose so you do not have to come into the clinic
- Each patient will be screened upon entrance to the clinic
- No patients or staff who exhibit symptoms or are at an elevated risk will be allowed entry to the clinic
- We may ask chaperones, or those accompanying our patients to wait outside of the clinic
- We ask visitors to practice social distancing within the clinic by maintaining 6 feet of separation and covering their mouth or nose with a tissue.

At present we intend to remain open to serve our patients to the best of our ability. We feel the precautions we have taken are sensible and in line with public recommendations. We will inform you of any changes.

I have been closely following COVID-19 situation including [updates from the CDC](#) and the [Pennsylvania Department of Health](#). This crisis is evolving rapidly and has created a lot of understandable fear. The virus is extremely contagious and is transmitted by airborne droplets or by contact with a contaminated surface or hands followed by touching the eyes, nose or mouth. In the midst of this anxiety and uncertainty, is important that we remain calm and exercise sound judgement to protect our patients. To that end, I am sharing this new policy so that we continue to serve our patients through this pandemic.

Please do not come to clinic if:

1. If you or someone with whom you have close contact is diagnosed with COVID-19 or if you have symptoms (fever >100.4, cough, shortness of breath), do not come you're your visit. Stay home.
2. Recent (2 weeks or less) travel to China, Japan, South Korea, Iran, or any country in Europe
3. Any symptoms of Fever (100.4 deg or more), coughing, or difficulty breathing

Patients in urgent need of a follow-up visit can be rescheduled to a telemedicine (or phone call if that fails) for follow-up of test results and medication management.

On arrival in clinic:

1. **Please do not shake hands!**
2. You will be checked for a fever immediately upon entering.
3. Nobody with a fever >100.4, or who answers yes to the screening questions, will be admitted to the office.
4. Please maintain a polite distance of 6 feet between patients and other clinic guests

Within the clinic:

1. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue (or into your elbow), then throw the tissue in the trash.
2. We have plenty of hand washing stations in our two bathrooms and in every exam room and you are welcome to use them as often as you like.

Additional Safety Measures:

1. In addition to standard safety measure (we already wash our hands before and after each patient interaction) we are doing the following additional precautions:
 - a. Each surface commonly touched by patients and staff (doorknobs/handles, tables, keyboards/mouse, chairs in the waiting room) is wiped down with a viricidal wipe at the end of each work day.
2. We ask that all patients and staff respect the new social distancing convention of 6 feet between people. Our exam rooms and treatment bays already separate patients by at least 6 feet.
3. We are limiting access of family and support people in the clinic. While chaperones are required to pick up patients after some of our treatments, we are asking that they maintain a 6 feet distance from other patients and if that cannot be maintained, they will be asked to leave and come back only for the pick up of the patients.

While no measures can guarantee protection against COVID-19, we will continue to do everything we can to stay open and available to our patients while at the same time minimizing the risk to other patients.

Please contact me or our staff if there are any other measures you feel we should be taking to help you feel safe to receive essential medical care.

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Scott, MD