

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Our community is under siege from coronavirus and we know that our patients have very real concerns about the disease and how they should deal with it. As always, your health, your safety and the safety of our community are our top priority. To minimize the spread of coronavirus we encourage you to contact the office as opposed to walking in so that we can assess your symptoms and be sure we take precautions to protect those around you if you have symptoms suggestive of coronavirus. Symptoms include fever (greater than 99.5), cough, fatigue, chest pain and shortness of breath. Persons who are at special risk for infection include anyone who has recently traveled from or had close contact with someone who has traveled recently to China, Iran, Italy, South Korea or Japan or anyone who has had close contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19. In addition anyone who has attended the Church at Liberty Square in the past couple of weeks may also be at higher risk.

We know there is great concern about this illness and we want you to be well taken care of. Unless you have severe shortness of breath, please call the office and we will direct you how and where to get the best and most appropriate care. We encourage you not to go directly to the emergency room unless you are severely short of breath or having chest pains. If your symptoms are not severe, leave a message and we will get back to you shortly. If you think you need urgent attention press "0" when the phone tree answers, and your call will be answered by one of the receptionists.

We will be limiting each patient to one caregiver/family member to accompany them to the office. This is in the best interest of all our patients and community.

Again, we know that it is a little bit of an unsettling time but dealing with your symptoms and concerns properly can minimize the risk to you and others and will help this illness pass more quickly.

As always we appreciate the chance to participate in your healthcare. We encourage you to contact us first to help direct you as to how to get the best and most appropriate care.

Go to the links below for additional information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>

<https://dph.georgia.gov/>