

Dolphin Pediatrics is working hard to stay abreast of the rapidly changing health situation in our community and our nation with respect to coronavirus spread. Here are some things we are doing and want you to know:

1.- **SCREENING:**

We ask that you call our office for all appointments, we need to screen for the safety of your children, you family and our staff and families. Please be understanding that these are dire circumstances and we want to help stop the spreading of the virus.

You will be asked the following:

* Does your child have fever, cough and difficulty breathing/shortness of breath/tight chest?

_Has your child been in contact with anyone who has tested positive for CoVid-19 or has been in contact with anyone who has traveled outside of the US the past 2 months.

* If the answer to the first two questions is “yes” you will be asked to take your child to the Emergency Room nearest you not just to get tested but because of the breathing.

* Who will bring the child to the office: **only one person allowed and he/she has to be healthy. We recommend that no person above the age of 60 comes to bring child for their own protection.**

2. **OFFICE VISITS:**

***We no longer accept walk-ins and our waiting room is CLOSED.**

*** We are scheduling all well child physicals, injuries and non-sick visits between 8:30am and 12:30pm.**

*** Illness visits (cough, cold) will be scheduled after 1:30pm. If you do not feel your child can wait until after 1:30pm call and speak to the triage nurse.**

*** We will ask that when you arrive at the office you call us to check in and wait in your car until it is time to come in, we will let you know.**

***We ask that you only have ONE person accompany a child to their appointment.**

Virtual telehealth visits with our physicians and nurse practitioner will be available soon as an alternative to office visits and may be recommended by staff when you call with concerns about your child. There will be a charge of \$50 per visit if your insurance will not cover this service.

3. TESTING FOR COVID-19: While testing is available in hospitals and larger facilities, clinics like ours do not have access to the test and do not have enough appropriate protective equipment necessary to obtain a specimen safely.

If you are concerned your child may have symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, sore throat, or shortness of breath), please do not come in. Instead please call our office so we can determine a plan of action: 954-362-3200 or click on the following links for official up to date information:

[cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/>

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT CORONAVIRUS PREVENTION:

What you must do to prevent catching or spreading this and other viruses?

- Cover your cough or sneeze and if you use a tissue, toss it, if you covered with your hands you must wash them for 20 secs with soap and water (better than using hand sanitizer)
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Frequent hand washing with soap and water for 20 seconds (sing 2 “Happy Birthdays”!)
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipes.
- **Social distancing:** no gatherings of any kind, keep people who are showing any symptoms at least 6 feet away from you.
- Stay home when you are sick and treat mild illnesses at home.
- Do not share drinks or food with anyone
- **Wearing a mask:** People who are well (except medical personnel) should not be wearing a facemask, because they are not designed to protect the person who is wearing it. Regular facemasks should be worn by people who are sick with COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. **The use of a special N95 facemask is only recommended for healthcare workers and others who are taking care of someone who is sick with COVID-19.**