

To All of the Patients and Families of Pediatric Partners,

During this time of pandemic spread of Coronavirus we are dedicated to providing continuing care to all of our patients. Every day is full of evolving information about this virus and how to manage the diagnosis and transmission of it. As testing becomes more widespread, it is important to realize that cases will appear to increase quickly. In fact, this is already the case whether we have the test results or not. These results do not impact how or what we can do to recover from the illness. There are no specific medicines or vaccine, but we already know what to do: stay home, isolate as much as possible from other family members, drink plenty of fluids, eat nutritious foods, take medicines for symptom relief, wash your hands, keep surfaces clean with soap and seek medical care if needed.

Do not hesitate to call us for help and advice if your illness is worsening. As always we can help with problems requiring medical care, and a visit to the office may be necessary. Asking information regarding known contacts or travel before your appointment will help our office prepare and do our part to decrease transmission.

Hospital visits should be reserved for people who need care that can only be provided there, such as IV fluids, oxygen and intensive care for respiratory and cardiac support. Sitting in urgent care or emergency waiting rooms for hours is not advisable for minor levels of illness, and may only spread disease.

It is easy to wonder why testing is necessary. It is to help our society protect the most vulnerable among us. Those who have chronic medical conditions, especially involving their lungs, heart, or immune system as well as the elderly are at vastly increased risk for doing poorly fighting this illness and requiring hospital care. Therefore, they are at increased need of protection from getting the virus in the first place. Knowledge gained from testing will be invaluable to help our community's efforts with social distancing. From school breaks to staying out of public places, we can all help slow the progression of this illness and allow the medical community to keep supporting the patients most in need of our care.

We hope you and your family stay healthy and do not need us during this time, but know that we are here to assist you if needed. In the meantime, please : DO NOT PANIC, take care of each other, try to start a new routine for the day, play games in and outside, keep up with school work so brains do not turn to mush, check on your elderly neighbors, and (most importantly) WASH YOUR HANDS!!!!

Sincerely,

All of the doctors and employees of Pediatric Partners

Here are some reputable sources for information about coronavirus (COVID-19):

[CDC.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) and [Coronavirus.maryland.gov](https://www.coronavirus.maryland.gov)

As well as your county's health department website and 211 Warm Line for information

Specifically: Anne Arundel County 440-222-7256, Baltimore County 410-887-2243,

Carroll County 410-876-4848, Frederick County 866-411-6803, and Howard County 410-313-6284