
FROM THE PRACTICE OF DAVID L MELLMAN MD, PLLC

March 13, 2020

Dear Patients,

It is with heavy hearts that we reach out to you during this time of crisis. The COVID-19 virus has been declared a Global Pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) and is now present in Denver. We have had patients at Rose Medical Center and at CCME with the virus. These patients have been treated with the guidelines established by the local health authorities and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC).

Our main goal is to keep our patients and staff healthy. We expect these upcoming months will prove a challenging time, and we want to do everything possible to provide you the best care. We have to work together, demonstrate empathy and – most importantly – flexibility as our knowledge about this virus changes almost daily.

Our older patients are most susceptible to severe manifestations such as pneumonia or sepsis, but this is not a steadfast rule. At this point, there are no medications that directly treat this virus or a vaccine that prevents it. It will take significant time to develop these. We have outlined recommended steps:

1. Wash your hands frequently with soap, for 20 seconds, especially after being in public and before eating. If soap is not available, use hand sanitizer containing 60% or more alcohol
2. Regularly disinfect surfaces that can be contaminated (the virus spreads by droplets that attach to surfaces)
3. Stay home if you are sick
4. Be mindful of social distancing and avoid group functions
5. Limit travel to domestic trips and only if necessary
6. Have an adequate supply of medications on hand
7. Get tested if you have symptoms or were directly exposed to someone with COVID-19

Important:

If you are concerned you may have COVID-19 or if you are sick (with any cold, flu or unknown illness) **please do not come to the office. Stay at home and call us at (720) 320-2061 ext. #2.** Our staff will notify a physician to call you and review your symptoms and determine next steps for care. In the coming weeks, we will try to provide more tele-medicine visits.

When appropriate, we will issue an order for COVID-19 testing. We evaluate each patient's need for testing on an individual basis. **The practice of David L Mellman MD will not be providing testing.**

Currently, there is one COVID-19 testing site in Denver, in the Lowry area, but we hope more sites will be added soon. **To be tested, patients must have a doctor's order, have had a recent clear-cut exposure to an individual classified by the Colorado health department as a threat to exposure, and have symptoms consistent with the virus.** Orders that do not comply with these conditions may result in patients being denied testing.

A big thank you to Dr. Richard E. Hoffman, previous Medical Director of the Colorado Department of Public Health, for his recommendations of how to handle the situation.

Our office will be in touch as new information becomes available. For more information regarding the most recent events in Colorado, visit the CO COVID-19 Homepage at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/2019-novel-coronavirus>

Sincerely & Wishing You All the Best,
David L Mellman MD & Jeannette Guerrasio MD
David L Mellman MD, PLLC