

Dear Patients, Parents and Guardians;

The emergence of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in China and its spread to other parts of the world has generated a great deal of news and questions over the last few weeks.

Premier pediatrics is committed to health and safety of our patients, families and the community. We want to assure families that we are taking all the essential precautions and we have protocols in place to respond to any outbreak of communicable diseases within our community. We have been working closely with the Prince William County Health Department as they monitor the situation and we will follow their instructions. Currently, there are no reports of Coronavirus in our community. The Prince William County Department of Health and Human Services has also informed us that to date, no cases have been confirmed in Virginia and there is no reason from a clinical standpoint to be alarmed.

In order to protect our patients and families we will be making temporary changes in scheduling. Until the outbreak is contained, we will be scheduling all well visits in the morning and all sick visits in the afternoon. Prior to scheduling visits, we will be asking screening questions to determine the best time and place for your child to be seen. We ask for your patience with these questions, as this may take a bit more time when scheduling appointments. We also ask that at this time to please only bring the child being seen to the visit. These policies and protocols are in no way an attempt not to see or treat your child, just an attempt to prevent spread of viral diseases. This Coronavirus along with many other viruses active this time of year are viruses and, in most cases, do not require specific treatments. In the case of severe illness additional evaluation or support may be needed. We will follow our protocols and continue to communicate with families by phone and via our website if there are any changes or concerns.

As a best practice for overall health in cold and influenza season, the CDC recommends that individuals receive the influenza vaccination and engage in everyday, preventative measures to prevent the spread of germs and avoid illness, such as:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizers.
- Avoid touching eyes, mouth and nose with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with individuals who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick. The CDC recommends that individuals remain home for at least 24 hours after you no longer have a fever or signs of a fever (i.e., chills, feeling warm, flushed appearance).
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then immediately discard the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office or the Prince William County Health Department. You can also visit the Centers for Disease Control website more information about COVID-19.

Thank you for partnering with us to keep our patients and community healthy. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we do our best to navigate this situation. We will continue to keep you updated with any additional information as needed.

Sincerely,

Dr. Anika Chowhan and the Premier Pediatrics team