WHAT IS COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person, similar to influenza.

PREPARING THE FACILITY

You may see changes as your infusion center prepares to keep you safe during treatment. This may include:

• Signs with special instructions for patients with symptoms of COVID-19.

• Additional education about hand hygiene and cough etiquette.

• Changes to visitor policies, which may mean friends or family are unable to sit with you during your treatment.

• Additional space in waiting rooms to allow patients to sit separated from others. Patients may be asked to wait for their appointment in their cars.

• A change in patient chair locations, treatment times, or days.

• A change in the gowns, face masks, and eye protection that the staff wear or that you are asked to wear.

TAKE EVERYDAY PRECAUTIONS

• Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

• Avoid touching your face.

• Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

• Avoid crowds and keep at least six feet of space between yourself and others.

• When you cough or sneeze, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or use the inside of your elbow.

  » Throw used tissues in the trash and immediately clean your hands.

• Routinely clean and disinfect surfaces you often touch, such as cell and home phones, keys, computers, countertops, handles, and light switches.

• Wear a cloth face covering (mask) when you are out in public settings where it is difficult to maintain social distance (e.g. grocery stores and pharmacies).
**MONITORING SYMPTOMS**

Symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild symptoms to severe illness. COVID-19 symptoms include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

If you, your caregiver, or someone in your household feels sick or may have been exposed to COVID-19, call your infusion center right away to let them know. Infusion center staff will help determine whether you should keep your appointment, reschedule, or seek medical care.

Always inform staff of fever or respiratory symptoms before entering the treatment area.

*You should NOT postpone or stop your treatments without speaking with your provider.*

**COVID-19 IN THE COMMUNITY**

If COVID-19 is spreading in your community:

- Take extra measures to put distance between yourself and other people.

- Talk with your family and caregivers to create a plan for if you get sick.

- Know contact information for your infusion center and care providers.

- Make sure you have access to several weeks of medications and supplies in case you need to stay home.

- Wear a cloth face covering if you have to be out in public settings.

**SPEAK UP: QUESTIONS FOR STAFF**

Don’t be afraid to use your voice and ask questions such as:

- How is the facility preparing for COVID-19?

- Will there be any changes that may affect my treatment?

- What can I do to protect myself and others?


**ADAPTED FROM “KEEPING DIALYSIS PATIENTS SAFE” GUIDANCE DEVELOPED BY CDC**