

What you need to Know about the Coronavirus:

If you think you were exposed to someone with Coronavirus and or you think you may have Coronavirus, please contact your local primary care physician or visit your local acute care clinic to be evaluated.

Updated March 23, 2020 –

Currently, All Offices Are Open And Operating During Their Regularly Scheduled Hours.

Is it okay to keep my appointment?

Our team is taking extra precautions to protect those in our waiting rooms and clinic area. If you have an appointment and can answer “**NO**” to the following questions, then it is safe to keep your appointment:

1. Do you have a fever or have you had a fever in the last 14 days? Fever is defined as a temperature above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit.
Yes _____ No _____
2. Are you recently experiencing symptoms of cough or shortness of breath? Yes _____ No _____
3. Have you traveled outside the United States within the last 14 days? Yes _____ No _____
4. Have you been in **CLOSE CONTACT**** with someone that has a **DOCUMENTED** COVID-19 infection?
Yes _____ No _____

CLOSE CONTACT** is defined as:

a) being within approximately 6 feet of a person with a **DOCUMENTED** COVID-19 infection for a prolonged period of time; close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case

– or –

b) having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on by someone with documented COVID-19)

5. Have you been in **CLOSE CONTACT**** with someone that has been **TESTED** for Coronavirus but has a **PENDING** result?
Yes _____ No _____
6. Have you personally been diagnosed with Coronavirus? Yes _____ No _____

Is it okay to get my allergy shot?

Yes. As long as you can answer NO to the above questions in the previous section. Our shot rooms are open and taking additional steps to ensure you can safely continue your shot schedule.

The following procedures are in place to protect all patients and staff:

- **Social Distancing:** In our waiting rooms, we have changed and limited our seating to meet the social distancing standard of 6 feet.
 - We are limiting patients to one guest if the patient is in need of ambulatory assistance, is elderly or disabled in need of assistance and or is a minor; Otherwise do not bring other guests with you (i.e. parent, guardian, partner) present for any appointments or allergy shot visits. All other visitors will need to wait in the car.
 - The only exception will be if siblings have an appointment scheduled at the same time (or near the same time) – in this instance, siblings can be in the same room with one parent or guardian.
- **Cleaning:** Our team has begun taking additional cleaning measures every one- two hours in the lobbies and shot rooms. We will also remove all toys.
- **Screening:** Additional screening questions will be asked when making an appointment about travel and symptoms. Our front office staff will also screen patients for fever upon arrival.

Southwest Allergy and Asthma Fever Policy:

During this time, if you or anyone in your household have a fever or have had a fever, body aches, or chills within the last 14 days, we will ask that you reschedule your appointment or postpone your shot.

If you have an appointment, please call to reschedule. Allergy shot patients should not get an allergy shot if you have a fever; we recommend waiting until you are fever free for two weeks before continuing your shot schedule.

If you have a fever with a cough or body aches, please call your primary care physician or an urgent care center for further instructions.

Your health is our top priority.

We will continue to monitor this situation and to update you as any changes occur over the coming weeks. If you have any questions or concerns, please call our offices. Below is additional information on Coronavirus.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Facts:

- It is spread through coughing and sneezing, as well as close personal contact.
- Symptoms appear 2-14 days after coming in contact with the virus.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), COVID-19 symptoms can include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

What If I Think I Am Sick?

Call your primary care provider or an urgent care center if you develop symptoms and you have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19, or you have recently traveled from an area with [ongoing spread of COVID-19](#).

Please know that [not all patients with COVID-19 require hospital admission](#). Those without respiratory complications can self-isolate, but should seek medical attention if their illness worsens. Patients who are at risk for complications may need be admitted to the hospital under appropriate isolation precautions.



Image from WHO

Who is at risk?

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the highest risk groups include:

- People caring for someone who is ill with coronavirus
- People over age 60
- People with chronic medical conditions such as: High blood pressure
- Heart disease
- Diabetes
- COPD
- Asthma

If you have an appointment but have or have had a fever please call to reschedule or, if you are due for an allergy shot, please postpone your shot. Due to the greater risk to our respiratory disease patients, we ask that patients are fever free for two weeks before entering our waiting rooms.

Asthma And COVID-19

Our Chief Medical Officer, John Van Wagoner, MD gives the following guidance about coronavirus and the precautions that those with asthma need to take.

There is an increased risk for those with asthma or respiratory diseases to be vulnerable to COVID-19, however, the precaution guidance is the same as the flu:

- Make sure you and your children have received the flu vaccine.
- Take daily asthma medicines to keep your asthma under control.
- For those who do get sick, call your Southwest Allergy & Asthma Center provider, and follow your Asthma Action Plan.

How can you avoid getting COVID-19 and other respiratory infections?

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for 20 to 30 seconds, always after coughing or sneezing.
- If you don't have access to running water, use an alcohol-based hand cleanser that is at least 60% alcohol.
- Don't touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Stay away from people who are sick.
- Don't share makeup, food, dishes, or eating utensils.

If you think you were exposed to the COVID-19, contact your primary care provider to discuss your symptoms and travel history.

[Learn more about prevention at the CDC Website.](#)

Reminder About The Flu

Influenza is still active.

In the US, influenza activity is still high. We encourage everyone to get the [flu vaccine yearly](#) and this year is no different. The flu is known to worsen asthma and is still the biggest threat to asthmatics and patients with COPD.

[Learn about Influenza and Respiratory Diseases.](#)

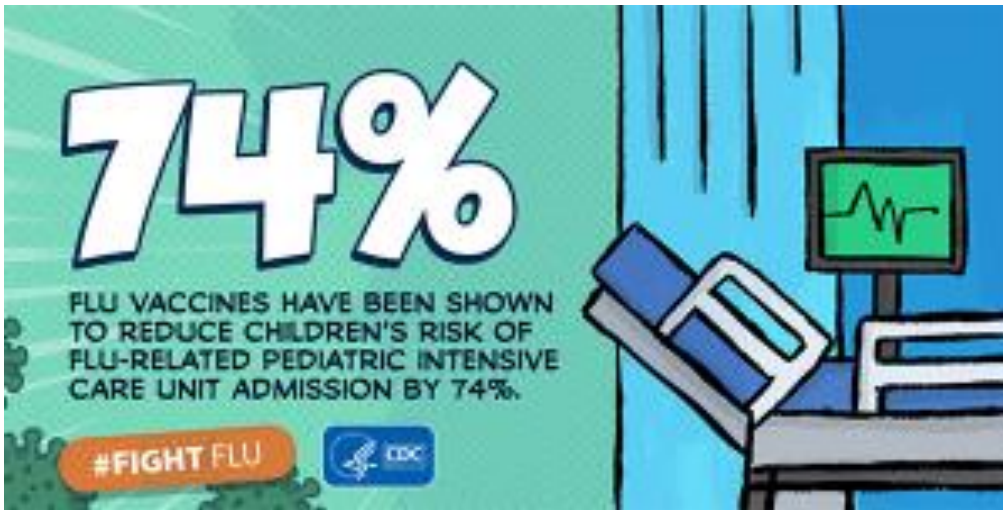


Image from the CDC

The Differences Between Coronavirus, Flu, And Allergies:

CORONAVIRUS	FLU	ALLERGIES
		Main Symptoms:
		Sinus Congestion
	Main Symptoms:	Runny Nose
Main Symptoms:	Fever	Post Nasal Drip
Fever	Headaches	Sneezing
Cough	Body Aches	Coughing
Shortness of breath	Fatigue and exhaustion	Itchy or Watery Eyes

We are committed to protecting the health of all patients.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Southwest Allergy & Asthma Center

Sources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters>