

A WORD TO OUR PATIENTS REGARDING CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) :

As of this writing, cases of COVID-19 are on a dramatic increase in the United States; it is a serious and deadly virus with increased mortality for the elderly, and for those with comorbid conditions such as hypertension, heart and lung disease, diabetes and immunodeficiency. Resources are limited, including hospital rooms and ventilators for severe cases.

For prevention, the best advice we can give is to please, please, please STAY HOME. The science and health experts tell us that simply staying inside and distancing ourselves from other is the most effective way to stop the spread of COVID-19 and “flattening the curve”, so resources for treating patients will be available.

If your symptoms are minimal, i.e. runny nose, body aches, low grade fever, it is not likely you will need supportive care. It is best to stay at home and treat the symptoms and avoid going out and infecting others, especially since testing kits are limited.

If symptoms are more severe, high fever, extreme fatigue and shortness of breath, especially in the elderly, then see your primary care doctor, or urgent care or ER physician immediately, and arrange for testing there. **Our specialty allergy office does NOT obtain specimens or run tests from patients for the flu or for COVID-19; and Quest and LabCorp will not obtain them at their labs either; they only run the specimens. Therefore, you must present to urgent care or an ER facility, or take an order from your primary care doctor to a drive through testing facility (Page Field Drive Thru testing in Ft. Myers @239.343.9800). You must call for an appointment first, however.**

If you must venture outside to the grocery or gas station, use disinfectant wipes on handles, gas pumps and keypads, stay 6 feet from others, avoid touching your face, and when possible, wash your hand with soap and warm water for 20 seconds, especially when arriving home.

For further information please visit: www.CDC.gov/coronavirus