

Dear patients of Marysville Primary Care,

As you likely have heard, there is an outbreak of a new strain of a common type of virus called coronavirus (COVID-19). We are messaging you to provide information about this and to let you know that this will cause some temporary changes. We want to continue to provide medical care for you while also making sure to protect the community and direct you to appropriate care when needed. To prevent accidental community spread of the virus, we have to make two immediate changes to our daily walk-in clinic (sick bay):

- 1) If you have symptoms of fever, cough, or shortness of breath and are coming to the office for a scheduled visit or to be seen in sick bay then you are to call the office first to be triaged. Our number is 937-644-1441.
- 2) We are canceling Saturday sick bay hours for the time being because on the weekend we do not have the proper triage systems in place to make sure we do not accidentally expose other patients. Whenever the current CDC and Health Department recommendations are relaxed then we will reinstitute our Saturday clinic. To announce this, we will both send a message and place signs in the office.

The best place to go for information about the virus is the CDC website

(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>), but here is some information to help with potential questions.

- 1) Symptoms of coronavirus: Cough, fever, and shortness of breath are the primary symptoms noted, though there have been rare cases that do not fit these specifically. Luckily these symptoms are likely caused by an illness other than coronavirus unless you have traveled to a high-risk area or had contact with a positive coronavirus case.
- 2) Countries considered to be high risk: China, Iran, South Korea, and Italy. Japan and Hong Kong are currently considered to be intermediate risk areas.
- 3) Testing and treatment: We are currently unable to provide testing at our office, but eventually hope to have that capability. The current treatment is supportive care only and there are no targeted treatments for the virus.
- 4) What to do if you have a mild respiratory illness (cough, congestion, and/or fever) and would like to be seen: Call our office for further instructions and to schedule a visit, but it will often be appropriate to stay home to avoid getting others sick.
- 5) If you have a mild respiratory illness and have recently traveled to one of the above high-risk areas or if you have had a known exposure to coronavirus then you should contact the Ohio Department of Health at 833-427-5634.
- 6) If you have a high-risk exposure as outlined above but have symptoms that you feel warrant ER evaluation then you should go to the ER and call them when you arrive in the

parking lot so that they can safely triage you into the building. If you have severe symptoms and are worried for your immediate safety, then you should call 9-1-1 as in any other case.

Thank you for your help in trying to mitigate the effects of this disease and its possible spread within the community.