

Davis Square Family Practice Newsletter

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Issue: COVID-19

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FAMILY MEDICINE

Greetings!

COVID-19 Information

COVID-19 INFORMATION

We at Davis Square Family Practice are here to help with all of your healthcare needs. COVID-19 has placed the medical community and the nation in a unique situation, where medical resources have been taxed like we have never seen in our lifetime.

Let me begin by offering my personal cellphone number to all of our patients *if you have a question that you feel cannot wait until our office is open-617-230-7988*. You can call or text me (and I will attempt to get back to you promptly). If you are unable to make contact with me at that number, then call the office at 617-666-9577 to find the name of the doctor on-call.

The vast majority of people who get the corona virus will have a relatively mild illness. So, unless you are feeling very ill, please, remain at home and contact us via phone. We will work together on the phone to help you create a plan of action.

The main symptoms of corona virus are: fever, dry cough, fatigue, muscle aches, headache, sore throat and nasal congestion. Not everyone who is infected get the same symptoms, but fever, cough and fatigue are the most common. *If you are experiencing difficulty breathing, contact us immediately or call 911.*

Currently in Massachusetts, the tests are limited and the capacity to safely perform them is as well. Consequently, the criteria for being tested are also very restrictive. This may change from day to day so I won't go into too much detail here.

Nevertheless, the Department of Public Health **will not recommend a test if you don't have a fever.** Additionally, **they require that you must be:** a healthcare worker in probable contact, **OR** have been in contact with a confirmed infected person, **OR** have traveled to a high risk region of the world.

By next week, *perhaps sooner*, these criteria will change. Stay healthy everyone and let's give as much loving support to each other as possible.

Deborah (Bershel, MD)

And

Michelle Clarke, NP

Carmen Phillips, NP

Andrea Dandridge, NP

COVID19 and Davis Square Family Practice

COVID19 and Davis Square Family Practice

Here at Davis Square Family Practice, we would like to share how we are adjusting our office practices so that we can continue to provide the best care possible under the current unique circumstances. Our goal is to minimize patient time in the waiting room and provide everyone with a clean environment.

First- If you feel that you have symptoms associated with COVID-19 please let us know prior to your appointment at 617-666-9577.

Upon arrival, all patients will be greeted at the front desk with the plexiglass windows closed. Patients will be brought back to an examination room as soon as possible. These rooms are sanitized between each visit. If there is no examination room available, we ask all patients to temporarily sit 4 seats apart while waiting. The waiting room will be cleaned regularly throughout the day.

If you are having blood drawn, we will direct you as quickly as possible, to the phlebotomy room. Please check with our front desk staff immediately on arrival.

If you have further concerns, please feel free to contact us. As always, advanced notice of any cancelled appointment will be appreciated.

As noted in the article above, Dr. Bershel can be called or texted after hours (from 6PM - 8AM and on weekends) at **617-230-7988** if you have health concerns related to COVID-19. Again, that number is only monitored after hours. If no response, there is always a covering physician

that can be reached by calling 617-666-9577.

To your health and wellbeing!!

From Your Davis Square Family Practice Caregivers