

# COVID-19

## CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
INTERVENTIONAL PAIN PHYSICIANS

### STATEMENT FROM ASIPP ON COVID-19

The novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has grown to be a global public health emergency and it continues to grow in the United States. It is very likely that the US healthcare infrastructure and resources, particularly as it relates to care of most critically ill patients, are likely to be strained over the coming weeks.

Infection control practices, social distancing, crowd avoidance and other preventive techniques will help to flatten the curve of the dissemination of COVID-19. However, it is prudent to take appropriate steps with forward thinking regarding those healthcare workers and patients who will, nevertheless, become infected.

- ◆ ASIPP strongly recommends to consideration of patient safety above all else.
  - Follow CDC guidelines ([https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2Findex.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2Findex.html)) and guidelines from local authorities.
  - You may specifically visit the section entitled “Interim Guidance for Healthcare Facilities: Preparing for Community Transmission of COVID-19 in the United States (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/healthcare-facilities/guidance-hcf.html>).”
- ◆ Telephone-based encounters may be an option depending on your insurance contracts
  - You may contact the simple, free, and secure Telemedicine Solution [doxy.me](https://doxy.me) or any other reliable source.

### GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

1. Do not shake hands or kiss
2. Do not touch your facial mucous membranes (i.e. nose, mouth)
3. Hand wash/sanitize regularly
4. Clean commonly touched surfaces regularly (frequently if active disease is present)
5. Follow the 4 Principles of Hand Awareness
  - Wash your hands when they are dirty and before eating

- Do not cough into hands
  - Do not sneeze into hands
  - Above all, do not put your fingers in your eyes, nose or mouth!
6. Do not use your phone close to your mouth. Each time you use it, wipe it with an antiseptic solution (please use hands-free systems including Bluetooth).

### **Precautions for Patients**

Ask the following on telephone, and also post on your front door.

Have you experienced a fever, chills, and shortness of breath in the last two-four weeks?

Have you been in close contact with a person with a confirmed case of Coronavirus disease?

Have you traveled from a country that has experienced an outbreak of the coronavirus disease within the last two-four weeks?



If you answered **YES** to any of these questions:

We kindly ask that you **not enter** the facility and contact our office to reschedule your appointment.

If you have any questions about the Coronavirus, call 1-800-722-5725.

Patients passing through these measures must be provided with a mask or a protective item to wear and quarantined or isolated in a separate room close to the reception. They should be observed immediately and discharged for self-quarantine and report to the authorities.

Check temperatures on all patients. For high risk and elderly patients 99.4, others 100. Document fever.

Do not keep waiting rooms or clinic crowded.

### **ASCs and Office Procedures**

Hospitals have been limiting procedures to the elective procedures; however, for office procedures and ASCs with careful screening. If all parties feel necessary, can proceed with procedures and follow appropriate precautions if you have enough supplies to last for at least 60 days. If there is a lockdown, these apply after re-opening. A large number of practices are NOT performing procedures.

Some of the risk factors you may want to observe:

- ◆ All nursing home patients and the elderly with multiple medical comorbidities such as diabetes, cancer and respiratory conditions
- ◆ High dose opioids or patients with substance use disorders with comorbidities of smoking, COPD, uncontrolled sleep apnea may pose additional risk for serious complications of COVID-19.
- ◆ Administering steroids, specifically in the elderly, may not be prudent considering the immunosuppression and other issues.
  - In addition, please look at the literature. There is no difference in outcomes with local anesthetic alone, lidocaine, or local anesthetic with steroids. There is extensive literature on it.

Dr. Anthony Fauci from the CDC has recommended a national shutdown of 14 days. The President may announce this at anytime.

As of now, for treatment, 2 drugs are used, but with no major publications thus far. The role of these medications for prophylaxis is not known. Many others are under development. We are also asking authorities to approve expanded umbilical cord stem cell infusions for treatment (will distribute the manuscript in tomorrow).

These 2 drugs for patients diagnosed with COVID-19 without contraindications are: chloroquine (Aralen) 500 mg twice daily for 10 days or hydroxychloroquine or Plaquenil 400 mg twice daily, followed by a maintenance dose of 200 mg twice daily for 4 days.

If you have any additional information, please let us know and keep us posted.

Thank you and good luck. Let us be healthy and safe.