

GLENVILLE MEDICAL Concierge Care

COVID-19 Update 11.12.20

Dear Patients:

We wanted to share a few thoughts about the present status of COVID-19: as you may already know, we are experiencing a significant rise in the number of cases in our area. Therefore, please be vigilant about maintaining social distancing of at least 6 feet, wearing a mask, and frequent hand sanitizing. Avoid large gatherings, especially indoors, even with a mask. Now, if you can, would be a good time to reduce risk and work from home. Let's all do our part in limiting further spread of this virus.

Testing. Remember that a test is but a snapshot in time. Despite the ability to use testing to avoid a 14-day quarantine after travel, it can still take up to 14 days after you may have unknowingly been exposed to develop illness or test positive for COVID-19.

Please be patient with PCR test turnaround times. Given increased testing demands, results will typically be available in 2-4 days on average. We strive for sensitivity and specificity, which the rapid tests can fall short on. While the rapid tests can be useful in certain circumstances, they do have their limitations.

Also be cognizant of what constitutes a true exposure: current CDC guidelines define an exposure to be a total of 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period, less than six feet away from a positive case, with or without a mask. Heeding this definition will limit unnecessary testing. We ask that you call the office for testing requests, which are limited to patients enrolled in the practice, and immediate family members.

Office staff. Additionally, we ask for your understanding with regards to the office. We are occasionally short staffed secondary to virus exposures to office personnel. The virus is not selective and we place the highest priority on maintaining a safe office environment.

Vaccines. Finally, a note about vaccines that are on the threshold of being released. While we are all enthusiastic about having what appear to be safe and effective vaccines, note that they are not yet FDA approved and that the logistics of distribution and administration are still being hammered out. Stay tuned.

Sincerely,

Steven Mickley, MD Judith Shea, MD Jeffrey Puglisi, MD Ralph Cipriani, MD