



Statement Regarding Rescheduling Clinic for Well Patients

From: Loyola Medicine Lung Transplant Team

Subject: A Message to Patients from the Loyola Medicine Lung Transplant Team

Dear Patients,

Loyola Medicine is committed to the health and safety of all of our patients, especially our organ transplant and immunocompromised patients. All Loyola Medicine hospitals, Loyola clinics and ambulatory care sites are closely following the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) protocols for evaluating any potential cases of COVID-19 (also known as coronavirus or SARS-CoV-2) and any other infectious diseases. Testing for persons suspected as potentially having COVID-19 will be performed in conjunction with the local health department and (as of this writing on 3/11/2020) is processed at the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). Patients who present with symptoms, as outlined by CDC, and/or any patients admitted to the hospital, are immediately isolated from other patients.

All transplant procedures and care will continue uninterrupted. However, with growing concerns surrounding COVID-19, we are reaching out to explain the specific precautions we are taking for our patients -- to both ensure their safety and to reduce exposure to COVID-19. Our team will be reviewing each patient's case and we may be contacting patients who are clinically stable with a recommendation to reschedule routine follow-up appointments in an effort to limit potential exposure to the healthcare setting. This may include 1) rescheduling March and/or April appointments in the Lung Transplant Clinic to another location, 2) deferring the face-to-face meeting in lieu of an over-the-phone consult with a physician or nurse practitioner, or 3) putting off your visit to a later date. Your nurse coordinators, nurse practitioners, or physicians will be reaching out in the near future with further details if this applies to you.

Please continue to follow the [CDC guidelines](#) to keep yourself safe by taking precautions to keep space (6 feet) between yourself and others, and avoid anyone with a fever, cough or shortness of breath. Stock up on supplies, and stay home as much as possible to further reduce your risk of being exposed. If you do need to go out in public, wear gloves and a mask, limit close contact in crowds, and wash your hands often. Avoid travel until further notice from your transplant team. Loyola will continue to closely monitoring the situation. This includes ensuring adequate supplies, staff safety and the adherence to all guidance and updates from the CDC and IDPH. Please contact the Loyola Medicine Organ Transplant Center if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Your transplant team at Loyola Medicine