



To our patients and families,

We would like to give you an update on Coronavirus (COVID-19), the potential impact it could have on your children, and how Reading Pediatrics is preparing to handle this epidemic. First and foremost, please know that we are fully committed to meeting the needs of all our patients, whether they be illness related or regular check-ups. To that end, we have been reading articles, listening to the medical experts we trust, communicating with leading pediatric practices around the country, coordinating with local hospitals, purchasing materials and equipment, setting up a telemedicine platform, and developing detailed protocols that will allow us to care for our patients in a safe and secure manner. The good news is that all of our research confirms that children (under the age of 20) are doing very well handling Coronavirus, with the majority only having mild cold like symptoms. Despite this evidence much remains unknown about Coronavirus, and we will remain vigilant in monitoring any and all developments related to this new infection. We are also very much aware of the risk children infected with Coronavirus pose to their parents, grandparents, and other older relatives in whom Coronavirus disease can be much more serious. Given all these concerns, we will be implementing the following at Reading Pediatrics beginning Monday, March 16, 2020:

- We will be separating our office sites based on illness, with well children being seen in our Wyomissing and Robesonia locations and sick children being seen in our Exeter and Temple locations (Wyomissing will remain our office for sick visits on the weekends). While we realize this change will pose an inconvenience for some of you, we believe it is the best way to allow our well children to receive the care they need (immunizations, monitoring of growth, screening for disease, etc.) without exposing them to Coronavirus.
- We are asking that only one parent/guardian/caregiver accompany a child to their well or sick visit. By reducing the number of individuals at an appointment, we can decrease the exposure risk for all of our patients. We also ask that if parents/guardians/caregivers are ill, they not accompany their child to an appointment, and would recommend that if possible, elderly relatives not accompany children to a sick visit for their own protection. In the same vein, we ask that siblings not be brought to a visit if they are not being seen.
- For those patients that are ill and need to be seen, we will continue to do so, with some extra precautions. We will be bringing patients directly from their car to the exam room, thereby bypassing the waiting room, and exposure to other ill patients. We will be providing all sick patients with face masks to decrease the risk of disease spread. Nurses and providers will use infection control measures including, but not limited to, the use of goggles, N95 masks, and gloves, as well as wiping down every room after a patient has been seen. We will also be rotating air purifiers through the exam rooms that are capable of recycling the air within a matter of minutes and filtering aerosol particles even smaller than the Coronavirus. While no system is perfect, we believe that this approach will allow your ill child to be evaluated and treated appropriately without unnecessary exposure to other illness.
- The CDC is recommending that whenever possible, those that are potentially ill with Coronavirus remain at home rather than going to the doctor. In an effort to comply with this recommendation, and still allow you the opportunity to receive valued input from your doctor, we are now able to offer telemedicine appointments.

We recognize we are entering uncharted waters, and the potential to make more changes in the future is very real. Please follow Reading Pediatrics on Facebook or Instagram, and check in with our website, ReadingPediatrics.com, for news and updates. If at any point, we can do anything to help you and your family navigate this challenging time, we hope you will not hesitate to ask.

Thank you for the privilege of caring for your children,

Your Reading Pediatrics Family