

REED S. WILSON, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.A.C.P.



A message from your doctor

Dear Valued Patient:

As you know, our community has started to see an increase in corona virus (COVID-19). **With the communicability of the disease, we will begin medical video teleconferencing appointments if you so desire. To arrange an appointment, please follow the steps below.**

1. You may call our offices for a time and date for your appointment as usual at [310-859-9170](tel:310-859-9170).
2. Second, you will need the WhatsApp application. If you already have WhatsApp you can call me at the following number which will be available during this outbreak...[310-890-7085](tel:310-890-7085). If you don't have the application, you can download it at the App Store on your iPhone or at the Play Store on your android device.
3. **Third, this will be treated as an medical visit and will have an associated charge.** It appears most insurances will be covering video conferencing, but I can't guarantee this. Currently we will not be seeing respiratory tract infection patients in the office. We

are in contact with infectious disease specialists and public health so that all guidelines are strictly followed.

Here is a little information to help you during this time.

What to do if you become ill?

If you experience fever and cough, stay at home and contact our offices for guidance. Do not come to our offices before calling the doctor. As you know we have always been very accommodating to walk-ins but during this time, we must ask you to understand this new temporary policy. As you know, our phone number is [310-859-9170](tel:310-859-9170).

If you are short of breath, please go to your closest hospital. The closest hospital to our offices is Cedars Sinai Medical center. They are located at [8700 Beverly Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90048](https://www.cedars-sinai.com/locations/8700-Beverly-Blvd-Los-Angeles-CA-90048) and proceed to the emergency room. The Cedars Sinai phone number is [310-423-3277](tel:310-423-3277).

Avoid contact with others to limit the spread of disease. Cover your cough/sneeze with a tissue or sleeve. Do not use your hands to cover your mouth or nose. Wash your hands with soap and water after coughing or sneezing and blowing your nose. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are unavailable.

Facemasks are only recommended for people with symptoms of a respiratory infection to minimize the risk of spread of infection.

The symptoms of COVID-19 in most cases are mild with respiratory complaints such as fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. More severe cases of infection can lead to pneumonia and there have been some deaths that you have heard about. Those with chronic medical conditions appear to be at high risk for complications.

You may reduce your risk of getting COVID-19 by:

- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you touched someone sick.
- Avoid close contact with people who are experiencing symptoms
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- If you have a cold or cough symptoms make sure to cover your coughs and sneezes by using the bend of your arm or use disposable tissues and immediately throw them in the trash.
- Receive a flu shot to prevent influenza if you have not already done so.

Again, Vena, the nurses and I are seeing patients. We have a large range of individuals with non-COVID-19 related issues that we are glad to care for. Obviously, circumstances may change and we may need to adapt according.

Remember, we can videoconference with WhatsApp at [310-890-7085](tel:310-890-7085) after you make an appointment.

Thank you,

Reed S. Wilson, MD, FACC

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