

We are all following the recent outbreak of the Coronavirus 19 (COVID-19). I wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with up to date information regarding what we know at this point, and emphasize what proactive measures we are taking to ensure the future health of our staff and patients.

Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that most typically cause upper respiratory type symptoms (runny nose, cough, headache, fever). COVID-19 is a specific type of coronavirus that was first detected in Wuhan, China. There is still much to understand about COVID-19, but at this point we do know that the symptoms it causes can vary from those of the common cold to more serious conditions such as pneumonia. While at this point, there have only been a handful of cases in the U.S., we would like to inform you of our preparations if COVID-19 does spread to our communities.

We have been actively monitoring and reviewing recommendations from the CDC and will implement the processes outlined below within the next 72 hours. Staff will be provided with specific instructions on how to handle and manage these situations in follow up communications. If you need additional assistance or have questions please immediately reach out to your OA, Cyndy Dill, or a member of the management team.

Staff will begin screening patients for COVID-19 who either schedule on the phone or walk in to schedule, by asking them in advance if they 1) Have traveled to Mainland China in the past 14 days, or 2) Have known exposure to COVID-19. If the answer to either question is yes, those patients will be directed to proceed to an emergency room for further evaluation.

Our best defense against COVID-19 is strict adherence to the policies and procedures which are already in place at AMI and AMI-Atlanticare, in order to minimize the contagious risk to other patients and to staff. These include:

- Offering patients who are coughing in our waiting room, a mask, as per our usual protocol.
- Technologists, nurses, doctors and anyone else in close patient contact should change gloves after each encounter.
- Technologists, nurses, doctors and anyone else in close patient contact should use PPE (personal protective equipment) as needed. We have been recently stocking up on masks, gloves, sanitizer, etc, just as a precaution.
- Hand hygiene for all employees: please remember to wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds throughout the day.
- Disinfect the room after each encounter by wiping down equipment and stretchers properly with a medical grade disinfectant.

We will continue to monitor this situation closely and will provide you with updates as they become available.