

I want to again thank you all for your continued help as we continue to deal with the effects of COVID-19. This is a very stressful time for all of us, but you have all been incredible in taking care of patients and each other. I cannot thank you enough.

I wanted to give an update on a few items and questions which have been posed. The first is regarding Monday's policy change whereby we started screening of incoming patients, employees and visitors who have a new cough, fever/flu-like symptoms or difficulty breathing. I can understand that there are concerns that by screening these patients we may not be offering them exams such as chest CT or chest x-ray. If patients have these signs or symptoms, regardless of their findings on a chest CT or chest x-ray, they may be instructed to self-quarantine by a healthcare provider. So given this fact, and the strict guidelines regarding COVID-19, these patients at this time really need to be managed clinically and a chest x-ray or chest CT is unfortunately not going to change the management. Additionally, by restricting these patients, we are still able to care for our other patients who need exams to be done. Lastly, these changes have provided for a safer working environment for our staff.

I have been asked by some of you how we are planning to handle certain outpatient imaging exams and procedures. The answer is that we continue to respond to the needs of our patients and communities, while closely watching the guidelines for outpatient office-based imaging and procedures. This is a fluid situation which we are monitoring daily. We must, of course, care for our patients and staff in the safest way possible, and we will continue to do that. This is being done by focusing on social distancing (with measures such as spacing out seating in waiting rooms as well as now offering patients the ability to wait in their cars instead of in the waiting room), proper cleaning of rooms and equipment, as well as continuing to emphasize the importance of hand hygiene and PPE.

As always, please continue to call or email me with any specific questions you may have and I will be happy to address them. Thank you again for all of your teamwork and support. I know we will get through this together.