



Genesis Medical Group SM
2255 E. Mossy Oaks Road, Suite 500
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www.genesisdoctors.com

April 30, 2020

Dear Patients:

Re: Re-Opening of Genesis Medical Group Clinics

Genesis Medical Group is anticipating the reopening of its Clinics on May 4th, 2020. Genesis Medical Group has taken extensive measures to plan for a safe reopening of our locations. As part of this process, we are asking for patients to exercise caution and use certain safety measures to ensure our health standards and the well-being of our staff and providers is not compromised. Please be assured, we are taking extra precautions at all our offices to protect our patients.

In particular, we are taking preventative measures to protect our patients, including adhering and enforcing strong social distancing practices. That means we are staying six feet away from others as much as possible, and practicing good hand-washing hygiene, among other steps. We believe social distancing is key to containing the spread of the virus, and affords the medical community the best opportunity to effectively treat those who do become seriously ill. We also have increased our hyper-vigilance for cleanliness, wiping surfaces and sanitizing often.

This is especially important for those over the age of 60, and those with underlying medical conditions, which may put them more at risk at developing complications from COVID-19. Such conditions include: heart disease, asthma, emphysema, diabetes, and high blood pressure, as well as those who have recently or may be undergoing treatment for cancer or other immunosuppressant treatment.

Toward that end, we are asking that anyone who believes they may be ill from COVID-19, or has any upper respiratory symptoms, to call us. Please do not show up at our office. This is for your protection as well as that of others. We can advise you by phone, and prescribe medications, if warranted.

As part of our reopening efforts, we are asking patients to take steps to avoid risking themselves to this virus and mitigate risks to infecting our staff and providers. As such, before arriving at your appointment, we are asking patients to complete a short questionnaire and doing a temperature check before entry. Please note, after completing these steps or prior to; if you think you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, or you are exhibiting symptoms and have been to a high-risk area, either in the U.S. or overseas, please call us to discuss how you should proceed.

The main symptoms of the novel coronavirus are:

- Fever
- Cough



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- Loss of smell and/or taste
- Shortness of breath

And unlike with the flu, which tends to produce severe symptoms within a matter of hours, symptoms of COVID-19 seem to develop more slowly over a few days.

This is a difficult, stressful situation for everyone, but in the coming days and weeks, as we learn more about COVID-19's impact, things will begin to get better and the uncertainty will recede. In the meantime, be patient, be as calm as possible, and know that we are here to answer your questions and provide the best information we can.

Please note our efforts to ensure yours and our staff/providers' safety, are being implementing to align with the Texas Medical Board's Executive Orders, which are explained in detail below.

TMB Adopts Emergency Rule Related to Gov. Abbott's Executive Order GA-19

Following Governor Greg Abbott's issuance of [Executive Order GA-19](#), the Texas Medical Board's Executive Committee today adopted rules on an emergency basis.

The adopted rule amends 22 TAC Chapter 190.8 Violation Guidelines, and adds to the definition of "Unprofessional and Dishonorable Conduct" under 22 TAC §190.8(2)(U).

The adopted emergency rule goes into effect May 1, 2020 at 12:00 a.m.

The rule adds the following required minimum standards for safe practice related to COVID-19, and certain posting notice of those minimum standards:

(U) Notice and Compliance Requirements Concerning COVID-19 Minimum Standards of Safe Practice

(i) All physicians providing patient care or engaging in an in-person patient encounter, must implement the following minimum COVID-19 standards of safe practice.

(I) a mask must be worn by both the patient and physician or the physician's delegate when in proximity of the patient (meaning less than a 6-foot distance between the patient and the physician or the physician's delegate);

(II) follow policies the physician, medical and healthcare practice, or facility has in place regarding COVID-19 screening and testing and/or screening patients;

(III) that, before any encounter, patients must be screened for potential symptoms of COVID-19 or verified previously screened within last 20 days; and

(IV) that prior to care involving a medical procedure or surgery on the mucous membranes, including the respiratory tract, with a high risk of aerosol transmission, the minimum safety equipment used by a physician or physician's delegate should include N95 masks, or an equivalent protection from aerosolized particles, and face shields.

(ii) All physicians providing patient care or engaging in an in-person patient encounter in medical and healthcare practices, offices, and facilities, other than hospitals as defined



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under Chapter 241 of the Texas Health & Safety Code, shall post a COVID-19 Minimum Standards of Safe Practice Notice (COVID-19 Notice), delineating the minimum standards of safe practice described in this subsection, in each public area and treatment room or area of the office, practice, or facility.

The Executive Committee also withdrew emergency rules related to Executive Order GA-15 effective May 1, 2020 at 12:00 a.m.

The Board will publish guidance related to Executive Order GA-19 on the TMB website at www.tmb.state.tx.us/page/coronavirus.

For the latest COVID-19 information for health providers and the public, visit the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) COVID-19 web page at dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/.

We are excited to continue providing exceptional care, while adhering to the highest safety and cleanliness standards.

Sincerely,

David P. Ellent, MD
CEO, Genesis Medical Group