



**IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT**

To the Patients and Families of Springdale-Mason Pediatrics;

Be assured that we are monitoring the situation related to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (also called COVID -19). We receive frequent communications from the local health departments, the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics. We are also consulting with the Infectious Disease Specialists at Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

Two resources we recommend for information and updates on the COVID-19 situation are: the American Academy of Pediatrics website www.HealthyChildren.org (search 2019 Novel Coronavirus) and the second is www.coronavirus.Ohio.gov which is provided by the Ohio Department of Health.

We will now be asking every family that calls the office whether the child or any one in the family has travelled within the last month and where, or if there has been contact with a person who has tested positive for or is suspected of having the COVID-19 virus.

We are not able to test for the COVID-19 virus in our office so if you feel your child has it, please call to discuss their symptoms and exposure. At this time, the only way testing can be obtained is with permission from the health department.

The good news is that children seem to be minimally affected by the virus based on information from the experience in China and South Korea.

What we are still seeing is many ill children with influenza, which continues to be very active in the community. Influenza is still our greatest concern. It is not too late to get a flu shot!

The best defense against both illnesses is 20 seconds of good hand washing with soap and water or the use of a hand sanitizer with 60% alcohol. If your child has a fever, they should not attend school or be out in public until they are fever free for at least 24 hours. Also, avoid other people who are ill with a fever or bad cough.

We will always do our best to make sure your children are healthy and protected. The COVID-19 virus is a new illness and there is still much being learned and new treatment options and interventions being considered.

Be Well!

Springdale-Mason Pediatrics