



COMMONWEALTH
OB-GYN PC

March 31, 2020

Dear Patients:

We hope that this message finds you healthy and weathering all of the changes in place in the setting of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have been following the crisis closely and continue to make changes in the way we deliver health care in order to provide as much care in the safest manner possible for our patients and staff. As elsewhere, we are continuing to limit contacts to those that are essential for at least the next month.

We would like to provide some updates as of today. Please keep in mind that protocols are continually being updated to reflect new information.

For our Gynecology patients: We appreciate the graciousness with which so many have already worked with our staff to reschedule non-urgent appointments. For urgent visits, please reach out via the patient Gateway or by phone to set up an appointment. We also invite patients who have issues that might be addressed through a telemedicine consult to contact us for an appointment.

For our Obstetric patients: We continue to see patients in the office for the essential visits in early pregnancy and in the third trimester, but are moving some visits to telemedicine visits. Our staff will continue to work with you in scheduling your visits. Our prenatal classes will be done virtually. We are advising that pregnant healthcare workers stop patient facing duties as of 37 weeks. A letter is posted separately on our website.

Office visits: If you have any symptoms to suggest COVID-19 infection such as fevers, chills, sore throat, congestion/cold symptoms, nausea, diarrhea, new loss of sense of smell; contact with someone with known or suspected COVID-19 infection; if you have had travel outside of Massachusetts in the last month, we ask that you call our office prior to your appointment to discuss rescheduling or to discuss the best pathway of care for you. We also ask that patients come to their office visits with us and our Radiology colleagues unaccompanied. We absolutely welcome family to join in the visits remotely.

Hospital visits: All patients will be screened for infection symptoms and history upon entering the building. All hospital staff are now wearing masks at all times. The current Brigham and Women's Hospital visitor policy allows for one support person to stay with a patient who has been admitted for delivery. That visitor/support person may stay for the duration of the admission, but will not be able to return once departed from the patient room. We encourage patients to bring any foods that might be desired during the admission outside of room service hours. Visitors may purchase foods from room service. Visitors are not allowed in the Triage or Antepartum units, nor in other areas of the hospital except under special circumstances. Babies will be cared for by the group of hospital-based

Pediatricians. The Pediatricians are recommending that patients stay at the hospital for at least 24 hours after delivery, although early discharges are otherwise possible. One visitor per 24 hours will be permitted in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. No visitors with symptoms of infection will be allowed in. The valet service has been suspended, but the garages are open for self-parking.

We wish health and safety for you, your families and our whole community. Thank you for entrusting us with your care. We look forward to seeing you either in person or virtually.

Sincerely,

All of us at Commonwealth OB/Gyn