

CDC COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR CLINICS

Before Patients Arrive

Prepare the clinic. Know which of your patients are at higher risk of adverse outcomes from COVID-19. Consider and plan for providing more telemedicine appointments. Know how to contact your health department. Stay connected with your health department to know about COVID-19 in your community. Step up precautions when the virus is spreading in your community. Assess and restock supplies now and on a regular schedule. Communicate with patients. Ask patients about symptoms during reminder calls. Consider rescheduling non-urgent appointments. Post signs at entrances and in waiting areas about prevention actions. Prepare the waiting area and patient rooms. Provide supplies—tissues, alcohol-based hand rub, soap at sinks, and trash cans. Place chairs 6 feet apart, when possible. Use barriers (like screens), if possible. If your office has toys, reading materials, or other communal objects, remove them or clean them regularly.

When Patients Arrive

Place staff at the entrance to ask patients about their symptoms. Provide symptomatic patients with tissues or face masks to cover mouth and nose. Limit non-patient visitors. Separate sick patients with symptoms. Allow patients to wait outside or in the car if they are medically able. Create separate spaces in waiting areas for sick and well patients. Place sick patients in a private room as quickly as possible.

After Patients are Assessed

Provide at-home care instructions to patients with respiratory or other symptoms. Consider telehealth options for follow up. Notify your health department of patients with COVID-19 symptoms. After patients leave, clean frequently touched surfaces using EPA-registered disinfectants—counters, beds, seating.