

PHG COVID-19 Update: April 23

Dear Valued Providers

We want to be a resource to our Premier Health Group Independent providers. In recent days, the clinical information regarding COVID-19 has begun to slow down. Due to this, we will be decreasing the frequency of the publication.

In addition, we have created a resources page on the [PHG website](#).

Please feel free to contact us directly at (937) 499-7441 with any questions you might have or if you would like to speak with our Medical Director, Scott Swabb, DO.

Yours sincerely,

Renee George
President, Premier Health Group

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COVID-19 Treatment and Testing Options

Click on the below links for the latest updates on COVID-19 treatment and testing per the Premier Infectious Disease teams:

- [Premier Health Diagnostic Testing for COVID](#)
- [Premier Health Treatment Guidelines for COVID](#)

PHG Education Series

We want to be a resource during these challenging health care times. We have heard the feedback from providers and want to offer a series of short education sessions to help with operational questions regarding COVID-19. Sessions will begin next week. More details will be provided as available.

Series topics will include:


1. Tips for telehealth coding and billing
2. COVID treatment options
3. Ramping up operations again

Practice Ramp Up

Getting back to work! As you prepare to ramp up your office operations, consider the below helpful tips to help keep patients and staff safe.

Pre-visit activities

- Reconfigure waiting room (chairs 6 feet apart) to ensure social distancing
- Check patient temperatures/symptoms as they enter buildings, if patient has COVID symptoms (cough, URI, fatigue, malaise, etc.) provide surgical mask
- Continue to check temperatures and symptoms of staff and providers daily in office

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- Ask all patients, including those without temperatures, to wear their own masks
 - Conserve supply for clinical team
 - Patient supplied homemade cloth masks are fine

Keep practice areas clean

- Staff continue to wear masks throughout the day
- Clean exam rooms in between each patient
- Limit visitors with patients
- Segregate exam rooms for sick vs well patients, sick defined as >100.4 temp, acute respiratory, acute GI, or COVID related symptoms
- Separate high risk, elderly patients (by area of practice and/or time of day/week) from other patient populations

Get creative with schedules

- Review schedule template of providers in office at the same time
 - Alternate video visits with in-person visits where applicable to spread out schedule
 - Alternate days in the office amongst providers to spread volume out
 - Consider extended hours
 - Consider “Senior hours” or “Well Visit hours” to segregate populations
- Consider curbside/phone check-in and reduce time before visit in waiting room

Premier Health Highlighted on ABC Nightly News

On April 20, ABC Nightly News featured one of the first patients at Premier Health to receive convalescent plasma donated by a recovered COVID-19 patient. Some evidence suggests that such plasma transfusions can help patients develop their own antibodies, and this patient has responded well to the treatment. [View this national news coverage](#) from ABC World News Tonight about the patient, her husband, and the unimaginable decision their daughter had to make. The full report also was shown on ABC News Live on April 21. Watch the full report here: [Heartbreak to Hope](#).

Plasma Donation

The Food and Drug Administration recently authorized the emergency use of convalescent plasma by physicians for current patients with serious or immediately life-threatening COVID-19 infections, or those deemed to be at high risk. **Health care workers represent an important donor source** since their occupation requires COVID-19 testing for any signs of infection. [Learn more about convalescent plasma donation](#).