



Indiana Hemophilia & Thrombosis Center

8326 Naab Road, Indianapolis, IN 46260 Tel: 317-871-0000 Toll Free: 1-877-256-8837 Fax: 317-871-0010 www.ihtc.org

Indiana's only federally recognized comprehensive hemophilia center

March 16, 2020

Dear IHTC Family,

The coronavirus (COVID 19) pandemic is upon us. COVID 19 can cause a range of symptoms; some people may have no symptoms yet be infected and spread the virus to others, while some people may develop severe breathing difficulty requiring hospitalization and intensive care. Younger people who are infected tend to do better with this infection than older individuals (greater than 60 years old) or people with underlying health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, lung problems, compromised immune function or other conditions. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has a website that they keep updated for information related to this virus and current recommendations to avoid getting sick. If you are able, please view the website at coronavirus.gov. This website has information about travel, "social distancing", public gatherings and personal safety. As well, we will continue to post updates on our website at www.ihtc.org so please check it regularly if you are able.

We at the IHTC want to assure that your care continues and that we remain well so that we are able to provide care. We also as a health care program want to support all efforts to limit COVID 19 spread. If we do not all as individuals make efforts to limit the spread of COVID 19, then health care resources will be stretched to the breaking point. We want to make all efforts to avoid this situation.

Therefore, we are instituting a variety of new efforts at the IHTC for patient and staff safety.

1. We are reviewing all scheduled appointments over the coming weeks and cancelling routine appointments at this time. We will offer you the option to have a visit with a care provider via telephone or telehealth.
2. We are screening all patients who come for appointments that cannot be delayed to determine their risk of having the infection. Patients who present to our office with a fever and cough will be directed by a medical provider for appropriate care.
3. Outreach clinics will be rescheduled until a time when the CDC determines that the risk of community spread has passed.
4. We have instructed our outreach team to reschedule routine home visits and appointments and to offer these by telephone or telehealth. The outreach team will screen people who may need immediate assistance for the same symptoms that our office is using and direct people who may be at higher risk of infection to an appropriate facility.
5. Care providers may be wearing masks to prevent spread when people are seen in person.
6. You need to have an adequate supply of medication for your medical condition in case you require quarantine at home. If you need to discuss this with the IHTC care team, please call. Please be patient if phone lines are busy as we anticipate an increased volume of calls.

7. If you have an upcoming procedure scheduled, please contact the care provider as most elective surgeries are being cancelled. The IHTC recommends that elective surgeries be cancelled as having these may increase your risk of exposure.
8. If you need to go to a local emergency room, please call us first so that we can alert the emergency room of your visit and medical condition.

Sincerely,



Amy D. Shapiro, MD
Medical Director



Anne Greist, MD
Co-Medical Director