

## MOASD COVID-19 Patient Memo

To our patients,

We want to assure you that we are taking action to protect your health and safety during the COVID-19 epidemic. We are following the lead of major cancer centers nationwide.

In accordance with federal, state, and local hospital guidelines, we are adopting the following measures, effective immediately to help prevent further spread of COVID-19

1. We strongly encourage patients who are not on chemotherapy, coming for routine 6 and 12 month follow up visits, to reschedule for 1-2 months from now. If you have symptoms or concerns which you feel require an in-person visit with the doctor, you may keep your appointment. If you are not sure, speak with your doctor on the phone for advice.
2. We will be limiting the number of visitors who may accompany patients. Please bring no more than 1 person with you to your visit. Also, no persons under the age of 18 will be allowed in the office during this time.
3. Any patients with fever, cough, shortness of breath will be directed to their primary care doctor's office, urgent care, or emergency room for evaluation and treatment, depending on the severity of their symptoms. Patients will be screened as they enter the office.
4. We will be suspending coffee service in the office temporarily.

We understand that this is upsetting for some of you, but know that many of the patients who come to this office are elderly and/or immune compromised. Those patients are at the highest risk of all for severe complications and death should they contract the virus, and we must take steps to protect them. If you are one of these individuals, you should not be leaving your home unless absolutely necessary.

School closures and quarantines may result in staffing shortages in the coming weeks. Please be patient with us during this time. We are doing everything we can to make sure your treatment stays on schedule, and that you continue to have access to the care you need.

### **ABOUT TESTING:**

- At this time, testing for COVID-19 is only available through hospitals, primary care offices, emergency rooms, and urgent care centers. We do not have the ability to order or perform testing in our office, so please do not come here for evaluation.
- Currently, testing is only being offered to patients with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection, who have been in contact with a known infected person, or have traveled to a high-risk area. A treating physician must call the County Health Department and receive permission to administer a test. This will change as testing becomes more widely available.

### **COVID-19 INFORMATION:**

#### Cancer Patient Specific

For more information about your risk and how to protect yourself, please refer to the following helpful guide from the American Society of Clinical Oncology

“Coronavirus 2019: What People With Cancer Need to Know”

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<https://www.cancer.net/blog/2020-03/coronavirus-2019-what-people-with-cancer-need-know>

### General Information

There are several excellent sources on the internet that are providing updated information about the Coronavirus situation. For current information on the status of the epidemic in California and your community, we recommend the California Department of Public Health website

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx>

We look forward to returning to business as usual as soon as this crisis is over. We appreciate your cooperation during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

The Physicians and Staff of Medical Oncology Associates of San Diego