

Flu & Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Important Information for Kidney Patients *PD and Home Hemodialysis*

March 12, 2020

To help keep everyone safe and provide you with the best care during influenza and coronavirus season, we are providing this handout to patients with kidney disease who attend:

- PD clinics
- Home hemodialysis clinics

We want to reassure you that your care will continue. We're here to help and support you. Please read this handout carefully. Also please make sure the clinic you visit has your current contact information.

In the weeks ahead, your clinic visit may be changed to a virtual visit rather than in-person – for example, it may be conducted by telephone. This will ensure you are not exposed to crowded waiting rooms and other people who might be sick.

Your nephrologist will determine if it's best to see you in-person.

What to do before you come to the clinic

If you are scheduled for an in-person visit, please call the clinic if you have any of these symptoms (Clinic phone #: _____)

- Fever
- Cough (new onset or worsening chronic cough)
- Difficulty breathing / shortness of breath

If you have symptoms, you may be:

- Asked additional questions over the phone by a nurse and given instructions on what to do next
- Asked to postpone your appointment or provided the option of a virtual appointment

What to do when you get to the clinic

Always clean your hands before entering the clinic. Hand sanitizers are available in the patient waiting area. If you have symptoms of the flu or COVID-19, clinic staff will direct you as to next steps.

Guidance on travel

You are strongly advised to cancel or postpone any non-essential travel, likely until September. Patients who have traveled outside BC and have an appointment in one of our clinics are advised to call the clinic prior to arrival.

For more information on COVID-19

- Call 8-1-1 to speak with a nurse with HealthLink BC
- Visit the BC Centre for Disease Control website at: [www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-\(novel\)](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/coronavirus-(novel)) (See the tab “What if I have a chronic condition?”)

Precautions in the unlikely event kidney care is not available

It’s always a good idea to be familiar with the steps you could take if treatment was temporarily unavailable, such as in the case of an earthquake or other natural disaster.

The BC Renal website has helpful information for kidney patients, including an emergency diet plan and information about medications.

Go to www.bcrenalagency.ca → Health info → Emergency Preparedness