

COVID-19 eNews

Kidney Transplant Program

April 2020

SPECIAL EDITION FOR OUR PATIENTS AND FAMILIES

In response to the changing environment with COVID-19, we wanted to share how the Kidney Transplant Program is limiting the spread of this virus while still being able to care for you during this difficult time.

SIGN-UP for our Monthly Newsletter

If you would like to receive an update about our program,
please click on the below link...please share with others.

<https://christianacare.org/services/kidneytransplant/aboutus/newsletter-sign-up/>

The following is a video and the guidelines that our practice is currently implementing at the time of this email in accordance with the direction of the Governor of Delaware, ChristianaCare, Delaware Department of Health and the CDC:

*Please watch this video from our providers to see how we are
addressing this pandemic:*



<https://www.facebook.com/christianacarekidneytransplant/videos/611634616348756/?t=4>

1. **NEW REFERRALS** will be contacted, screened for insurance verification and have medical records requested and reviewed. If cleared for evaluation, we will contact you by telephone. We are working on a virtual platform to provide education and start the evaluation process outside of the office setting.
2. **NEW EVALUATIONS** currently scheduled are being rescheduled when we can see you in the office. Again, we hope to establish a virtual platform with you to begin the educational portion of the evaluation process.
3. If you are in the **EVALUATION PROCESS**, you will not be seen in the office and any appointments that you had will be cancelled until we are safely able to reschedule. Your transplant coordinators will contact you and maintain a telephonic relationship to address any questions or concerns due to the virus or otherwise.
4. **INACTIVELY LISTED (Status 7)** patients will be in telephonic communication with your transplant coordinators. All scheduled office appointments will be cancelled and reschedule for a later date.
5. **ACTIVELY LISTED (Status 1)** patients will continue to receive organ offers and transplants will safely proceed as deemed by our transplant team. Deceased donor kidneys are going through additional testing to determine that they are not infected with virus and are safe to transplant.
6. **POST TRANSPLANT** patients are being seen on an as-needed only basis at this in time. Labs are being drawn and reviewed and appointments are being handled telephonically. We are developing a system to allow for safe outpatient laboratory blood work. Instructions will be given as to when and where to have labs drawn.

Use this time to go to our website www.christianacare.org/kidneytransplant to explore the many resources we have about the kidney transplant process or living donation. Please also consider following us on Facebook for more up to date information about our program and continue to reach out via phone, e-mail, Facebook, twitter or whatever social media you use to try to find a living donor.

In summary, you will NOT be brought into the office to be seen unless it is absolutely necessary and deemed safe for the you and the healthcare providers. We encourage you to reach out to our office and your coordinator with any questions about how this virus affects your status with our program.

Lastly, in accordance with the CDC guidelines, any patient experiencing symptoms of this virus are directed to contact their primary healthcare provider and only go to the emergency department if they are having difficulty breathing.

- ***Please continue to STAY AT HOME as much as possible!***

- *Do NOT visit friends and family, especially any one hospitalized!*
- *If you consider yourself at high-risk for infection, please wear a mask when going out.*
- *WASH YOUR HANDS with soap & water as frequently as possible, after touching doorknobs, elevator buttons or handrails. USE hand sanitizer only if you are not in a position to wash your hands with soap and water.*
- *BE SAFE AND CONTINUE TO PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING!*

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