DAY KIMBALL HEALTHCARE

A community partner of YaleNewHaven**Health**

FAQs: Coronavirus

1. What are coronaviruses?
Coronaviruses are a group of viruses that are common in both humans and animals. These viruses usually cause mild-to-moderate respiratory illnesses. The source of COVID-19 is suspected to be animals in an open air market in Wuhan, China; the virus is possibly a previously unrecognized bat coronavirus. It appears to cause a more severe illness progressing to pneumonia.

This is a rapidly evolving situation. More is being learned about this new virus every day and updates are available on the CDC website.

2. What are the symptoms of this coronavirus infection?
Patients with confirmed COVID-19 usually have had mild-to-severe respiratory illness, like the common cold. Symptoms including fever, cough and shortness of breath may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

3. What is the risk of this coronavirus infection spreading in Connecticut?
DKH is monitoring the progression of the virus to keep our patients and staff safe. Call your healthcare professional if you develop symptoms and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you recently traveled within the past month from an area with community spread of COVID-19.

4. Coronavirus vs. the flu: Which is a greater threat?
COVID-19 and the flu are both contagious viruses that cause respiratory illness. While public health officials are still learning more about symptoms and severity of COVID-19 vs. the flu, the best way to prevent either illness is to take everyday precautions including frequent hand washing; refraining from touching your eyes, nose and mouth; coughing into your elbow; and staying home if you are sick.

5. Has Day Kimball treated a patient with COVID-19?
DKH is not currently treating any patients with confirmed 2019 novel coronavirus. However, we have seen an exceptionally high number of patients with the flu this winter. Each patient presenting with flu-like symptoms is evaluated thoroughly to prescribe a care plan. Patients who have traveled recently within the past month to an area with widespread community COVID-19 and are now ill with a possible respiratory tract infection are ***urged to call their healthcare provider first*** so they can be cared for in a safe manner.

6. How will Day Kimball screen for COVID-19?
For everyone's safety, we are screening all patients coming in for appointments for the coronavirus. Patients will be asked about recent travel and symptoms, including fever, cough or shortness of breath. Patients may be asked to wear a mask and to return to their vehicle for evaluation outside of our facilities. If patients have any questions or concerns, they should call their healthcare provider.

Patients who require hospitalization will enter through the decontamination entrance at the Emergency Department and then be placed in a negative pressure isolation room and treated by healthcare professionals wearing a higher level of protective equipment, including gowns, N95/PAPR masks, and face shields. Doctors then evaluate and examine the patient and possibly refer the individual to DPH, which will determine whether to administer a test for coronavirus.

7. How will Day Kimball protect patients, visitors, and staff from COVID-19?

DKH is employing protective measures to ensure the well-being of both our patients and staff. We are screening patients outside of our facilities. We are asking patients who are experiencing upper-respiratory tract infections about their travels, specifically if they have traveled recently (within the past month). We are doing as much triage outside the facility as possible to keep patients and others safe from possible exposure.

8. Where can I get more information about coronavirus?

If you have questions about coronavirus, talk with your doctor. More information on coronavirus is available from the CDC: www.cdc.gov. Or dial 2-1-1 which is the go-to public phone number to get information about novel coronavirus. Information is also available on DKH's website: www.daykimball.org/coronavirus.