



PATIENT HEALTH ALERT

Dear Patient,

We at VITA Medical greatly value your health — YOU are our number one priority. Patients with weakened immune systems might be at higher risk for complications from colds, the flu, and the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Our staff is taking extra necessary precautions to keep you safe and protected by implementing aggressive sanitization procedures and increasing our sterilization practices in addition to our regular routine.

To assist us in our mission, we kindly ask your cooperation in the following:

- ♦ Please contact our office at **610-866-0113** if you have any cold or flu-like symptoms, which can include: fever, cough, sore throat, joint pain or weakness;
- ♦ If you have traveled domestically or internationally in the last 14 days, please inform our staff;
- ♦ Please do not bring visitors to appointments until further notice.

In the event that you have any of the symptoms listed above, your physician will advise if your upcoming appointment should be rescheduled.

Please contact us at 610-866-0113 if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation at this time.



COVID-19 UPDATE March 26, 2020

VIRTUAL OFFICE VISITS

Dear Patient,

As you know, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf has mandated lockdowns in some of the counties in the state. Lehigh and Northampton Counties are two affected by the lockdown. There are, however, patients who must continue with in-office visits and infusion therapy on site. Another step during the **Coronavirus** Pandemic that we have taken is continuation of care by converting to virtual patient visits. Doxy.me is a simple program to use without the need to have technical skills. You can meet your doctor online using your phone or computer. Our staff will give you instructions once you are scheduled for a virtual visit. Most major health insurances cover the cost of these visits.

If you would need to be seen in our office, please do not bring visitors to appointments until further notice. If you are unable to drive and have a far commute and a lengthy visit due to infusion treatment, your driver may sit in our waiting area.

**Kindly contact us at 610-866-0113 if you have any questions or concerns.
We are here for you.**



5 Things You Need to Know

1. Cancer patients are among those at high risk of serious illness from an infection because their immune systems are often weakened by cancer and its treatments. Cancer patients and their caregivers need to take precautions to lower their risk of getting COVID-19.
2. To protect yourself from the virus, take these steps:
 - ◆ Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
 - ◆ Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
 - ◆ Avoid close contact – being within 6 feet – from people.
 - ◆ Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash, or cough or sneeze into your elbow.
 - ◆ Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
 - ◆ Avoid non-essential travel.
 - ◆ If you need to go out, it's best to check the CDC's guidance about protecting yourself and others. If you are a cancer patient, survivor, or caregiver, talk to the cancer care team about whether there are any additional precautions needed.
3. Contact your doctor right away if you experience any of the following symptoms:
 - ◆ Fever
 - ◆ Cough
 - ◆ Shortness of breath

Some patients may have diarrhea or nausea before these symptoms occur.

Other symptoms can include:

- ◆ Body aches and pains
 - ◆ Nasal congestion
 - ◆ Runny nose
 - ◆ Sore throat
 - ◆ Loss of sense of taste and smell
4. The CDC is now recommending that health care facilities and doctors prioritize urgent and emergency visits and procedures for the coming several weeks. In those circumstances, it won't be life as usual. It will require patience on everyone's part as we go through this pandemic. It is important to maintain contact with your cancer care team to determine the best course of action for you.
 5. Health officials are urging everyone to stay home as much as possible to further reduce the risk of being exposed to COVID-19. Therefore, we recommend that no one should go to a health care facility for routine cancer screening at this time. Instead, if you're due for your screening to detect breast, colon, cervix, or lung cancer, postpone your appointment for the near future.