

COVID 19 Update

As you are very aware, directives and instructions regarding COVID 19 seem to change almost within the hour, but I think it has taken this week's experiences for the final announcement from the Alabama Department of Health and Governor Ivey. As medical professionals, you adhere to strict sanitization standards already but let me further provide guidance with the today's announcement and explain the distancing and screening procedures everyone should adhere to.

"Effective today, all non-work-related gatherings of 25 persons or more, or non-work-related gatherings of any size that cannot maintain a consistent six-foot distance between persons, are prohibited. **Employers shall take all reasonable steps to meet these standards for employees and customers.**"

There is a poster available on the web site of the Alabama Department of Public Health that you can post on your front door to direct those experiencing any of the listed symptoms do not enter the facility and to call your office. There are also screening questions for you to screen each patient and anyone accompanying the patient to your office. In patient waiting areas, you should adhere to the six-foot distance rule as much as possible. Employers are to establish as many safeguards as possible as outlined in the CDC guidelines. There are patients that will continue to need your care and businesses must continue normally as much as possible.

In speaking with representatives from the State Health Department, it is extremely difficult for them to outline every scenario in their directives but will continue to give you as many guidelines and information sources as possible. Here are some of those sites:

Alabama Department of Public Health

<http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/infectiousdiseases/2019-coronavirus.html>

CDC Guidelines

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>

The Podiatry Board Office is closed to the public, but the staff will remain in the office answering calls and emails until informed not to by Governor Ivey. Please let us know if we can assist in any way.

CME's will be addressed at the next scheduled Board meeting and we will work with each of you to ensure you do not experience any repercussions. Thank you for your patience during this time. Stay safe and healthy!