

## **Tullyview Allergy shot rules during the COVID-19 outbreak** (updated 7/6/20)

As long as social distancing is advised to attempt to reduce the spread of coronavirus, allergy shots, venom shots and Xolair/Nucala injections will be given by appointment-only under the following conditions. These are designed to maximize social distancing and hopefully keep you, the Tullyview staff and other patients safe.

All shots will require an appointment, and you are expected to be present at your scheduled time. If you arrive early, you may still need to wait until that scheduled time. This is designed to prevent more than one patient from coming to the office door at the same time, and limit the number of people requiring post-shot observation at a given time. When you arrive, please park as close to our front door as you can, preferably in one of the spots directly in front of our building, facing the building. As instructed by our sidewalk signs, please call our specially designated check-in number ( 484-513-3484), and you will be instructed when to approach the building. In order to get a shot, most patients will need to have a cell phone available, since they will be waiting 20-30 minutes post injection in their car. Please wear appropriate clothing that allows easy access to your upper arms. Patients will not be allowed to undress in a private room inside. You will also need to bring your own cold pack (a bag of frozen peas will suffice) if you typically use one. We will still provide Band-Aids if needed. Certain shot patients will need to wait inside after their injections. Specifically these include patients who are in their buildup phase, those who have had a prior systemic reaction (and carry an EpiPen on shot days), those on venom therapy and those with other special circumstances. No more than three "insider" shot patients can be scheduled at the same time, due to our limited number of available exam rooms.

Masks must be worn by all shot patients and their parents/support persons in order to enter the building. Since medical masks are still a scarce commodity, unfortunately we cannot provide any for those who have forgotten theirs. Only one shot patient (and their support person if necessary) will be called in to the "screening area" (our front door glass vestibule) at one time. Stopping there, you will be asked our usual shot screening questions (from the shot sheet, which will now be completed by the nurses) as well as coronavirus screening questions. We will verify your cell phone number and the car in which you will be waiting. Shots are drawn up before you enter, so that most of you will literally spend no more than a couple of minutes inside to receive your shots. Temperature screening is performed on all persons entering the building. We will identify the time on your watch/phone and our clock, so that both of us are tracking your waiting time. When that time is up, we will wave you back to the vestibule or front window to have your shot sites checked through the glass.

Shot appointments are scheduled no more than one week ahead of their desired time. Especially during our hot summer weather, do not bring animals or extra children to wait in the car with you, because in the event of a shot reaction you will be brought inside and they must remain outside. Please call to cancel your shot appointment if you or your support person are sick with fever/chills, cough, sore throat, body aches or excessive sneezing/rhinorrhea. You should not come to the office if you have had contact with a known or suspected COVID-19 patient and should be in quarantine. Remember that asymptomatic coronavirus patients can still spread the infection. Travelers should not come to the office until you have quarantined for two weeks after returning from an area with a severe COVID-19 outbreak. We reserve the right to cancel your shot on the spot if we think that there is a chance you could have a contagious illness or are producing excessive respiratory droplets from cough or sneezing. While not strictly forbidden, bathroom use in the office is strongly discouraged.

These new rules obviously represent a drastic change from our previous shot administration protocol, and will remain in place until social distancing is no longer required. They are vital for your safety and the safety of other patients and our staff, and will be strictly enforced. Thank you for your cooperation.