



Dear Colleague:

These past five months have been unprecedented, responding to new information, frequently changing guidelines, and managing fear and uncertainty as COVID-19 arrived in our region.

While there are still many unknowns about COVID-19, one thing is certain: You can feel confident partnering with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia on your patients' care. While we never closed, we have now returned to more normal operations and are seeing patients with all types of medical issues in urgent care, specialty care, ambulatory surgery, the Emergency Department, day hospital and the inpatient setting, as needed.

At CHOP, we continue to follow all CDC guidelines for infection prevention, including universal mask use and physical distancing, frequent environmental cleaning, and screening for travel and exposure history at all points of entry, to name a few. Families are also required to wear face coverings (provided if needed) during appointments and while their child is inpatient. In addition, all patients are tested for COVID-19 upon admission and before any aerosol-generating procedures to ensure safety. Any patient who tests positive is cared for in a dedicated isolation unit.

We have taken all precautions possible to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission at CHOP. Depending on the service and condition, some appointments can be conducted using telehealth. However, our subspecialists across all divisions are prepared to see patients in person when that is best. Please encourage your families not to delay or postpone necessary care. As you know, postponing a diagnosis for cancer, IBD, infections and more can affect treatment — and, potentially, outcomes.

In fact, some specialties and clinics that might have had longer wait times in the pre-pandemic past have appointments available in the next few weeks. Now is a good time for your patients to be seen quickly.

On the back of this letter I have listed some of our COVID-19-related resources — for you and for your families. We continue to update these materials as new information becomes available.

Thank you for partnering with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia to ensure your patients receive the care they need, even in the midst of a global pandemic.

Yours truly,

Julia Sammons, MD, MSCE

Medical Director, Department of Infection Prevention and Control

CHOP RESOURCES RELATED TO COVID-19

We hope you find these resources helpful as you navigate providing care during the global pandemic.

FOR PROVIDERS: chop.edu/covid-19-providers

This page provides direct links to information on:

- COVID-19 clinical pathways:
 - Ambulatory Screening for COVID-19 Disease
 - Emergency Department Screening and Evaluation for COVID-19 Disease
 - Inpatient Screening and Evaluation for COVID-19 Disease
 - Emergency Evaluation of Possible Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS-C)
- Details of how CHOP is providing safe care
- A video from Julia Sammons, MD, MSCE, Medical Director, Department of Infection Prevention and Control, outlining steps CHOP has taken to provide safe care
- Primary Care Perspectives podcasts related to providing care during the pandemic (newborns, cancer patients) and positive parenting and safe youth sports during the COVID-19 era
- Information on referrals, vaccines, transport and testing

FOR YOUR PATIENTS AND FAMILIES: chop.edu/covid

This page has direct links for families that cover a wide variety of topics, including:

- What families can expect coming to the hospital, emergency room and CHOP Care Network locations
- Why it's important to keep up with vaccinations and other routine care visits
- How to navigate a video visit, with tips to ensure it is successful
- Information on COVID-19 testing
- Guidance to help children understand the pandemic
- Tips for safely returning to activities, such as sports, child care and school, while COVID-19 is still circulating
- Ideas for parents to help their child, and themselves, cope with the uncertainty, stress and disappointments the pandemic has caused
- Fact-based information about the novel coronavirus