

COVID-19 and Northwest Kidney Centers incenter patients

June 26, 2020

Our primary concern at Northwest Kidney Centers is the health and well-being of our patients and staff. Here is an update on how we are doing to keep you safe while you receive dialysis incenter as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

What we are doing to keep you safe

- We screen all patients for any new signs of cough, fever, sore throat, shortness of breath, muscle aches or shaking chills, loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or new congestion.
- We will also ask if you or someone you live with has been tested or is positive for COVID-19.
- COVID-19 positive patients or patients with symptoms will be placed in a private room and will wear a medical grade mask. We have added clear screens that can be pulled down between stations as needed to create additional private space.
- We want you to come to dialysis even if you are COVID-19 positive or have symptoms. We are prepared to safely care for you! We will also work with you to ensure you have transportation to and from dialysis.
- We have limited visitors in the dialysis clinic except for a single visitor necessary to a patient's physical and emotional well-being.
- In accordance with the new Washington State order, **all patients must wear a mask during dialysis.**
- We are cleaning often (wheelchairs, handrails of scales, waiting room surfaces and chairs and patient restroom door handles and handrails) using products that kill the coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

What we are doing to keep our staff safe

- All staff are required to self-assess for symptoms prior to arriving to work for any new signs of cough, fever, sore throat, shortness of breath, muscle aches or shaking chills, loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or new congestion.
- If a staff member has symptoms, s/he will stay home.
- We are mandating all staff wear a medical grade mask at work in the dialysis clinic.
- Staff caring for COVID-19 positive patients or patients with symptoms will wear personal protective equipment (PPE) which includes an isolation surgical gown, mask with eye protection and gloves. Staff change PPE between patients to protect patients and staff. We have worked with our vendors to ensure we have adequate PPE supplies.

- All staff members have been trained on donning (putting on) and doffing (removing) PPE.

What you should do at home

- Patients need to take extra precautions living in a multigenerational home or living with family members who are working outside the home.
- Please tell us if you are sick or if anyone you live with has been ill.
- Maintain physical distancing between you and others (staying six feet apart).
- Limit trips outside your home and wear a cloth face covering (hand sewn mask or bandana) when you leave your home. Make sure you have enough household items, groceries and medications on hand, and ask family or friends to help you with errands outside your home.
- Wash your hands often, cover coughs and sneezes, and throw used tissues in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect things you touch frequently (doorknobs, light switches, handles, phone, cell phone, remote controls). Regular household cleaning spray or a wipe works fine.
- Cloth face coverings should be laundered regularly (daily and when soiled) in a washing machine.
- Get plenty of rest and manage your stress.

We realize this is an uncertain time and we are here to support you *and* provide you with dialysis. Please contact any member of your care team to let us know of any other needs you may have.

Sincerely,



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