

# Get Your Clinic Ready for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## **Get ready! Steps you take to prepare your clinic for flu also can help protect your patients and healthcare workers from COVID-19.**

Before Patients Arrive

- Prepare the clinic.
  - Know which of your patients are at higher risk of adverse outcomes from COVID-19.
  - Consider and plan for providing more telemedicine appointments.
  - Know how to contact your health department.
  - Stay connected with your health department to know about COVID-19 in your community. Step up precautions when the virus is spreading in your community.
  - Assess and restock supplies now and on a regular schedule
- Communicate with patients.
  - Ask patients about symptoms during reminder calls.
  - Consider rescheduling non-urgent appointments.
  - Post signs at entrances and in waiting areas about prevention actions.
- Prepare the waiting area and patient rooms.
  - Provide supplies—tissues, alcohol-based hand rub, soap at sinks, and trash cans.
  - Place chairs 3–6 feet apart, when possible. Use barriers (like screens), if possible.
  - If your office has toys, reading materials, or other communal objects, remove them or clean them regularly.

Train and prepare your staff now.

- Ensure that clinical staff know the right ways to put on, use, and take off PPE safely.
- Recognize the symptoms—fever, cough, shortness of breath.
- Implement procedures to quickly triage and separate sick patients.
- Emphasize hand hygiene and cough etiquette for everyone.
- Ask staff to stay home if they are sick.

- Send workers home if symptoms develop at work.

#### When Patients Arrive

- Place staff at the entrance to ask patients about their symptoms.
  - Provide symptomatic patients with tissues or facemasks to cover mouth and nose.
  - Limit non-patient visitors.
- Separate sick patients with symptoms.
  - Allow patients to wait outside or in the car if they are medically able.
  - Create separate spaces in waiting areas for sick and well patients.
  - Place sick patients in a private room as quickly as possible.

#### After Patients are Assessed

- Provide at-home care instructions to patients with respiratory symptoms. Consider telehealth options for follow up.
- Notify your health department of patients with COVID-19 symptoms.
- After patients leave, clean frequently touched surfaces using EPA-registered disinfectants—counters, beds, seating.

Find signs for your clinic and infection prevention guidelines: [www.cdc.gov/COVID19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

**Source:** <https://www.cdc.gov/>