



WELLCOME MD

On behalf of all of us at WellcomeMD, we hope you and yours are continuing to stay healthy and safe during the ongoing pandemic.

We are happy to bring you some good news surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic in this week's update. Locally, we will be expanding the in-office appointments at WellcomeMD while adhering to strict safety guidelines. Nationally, the first anti-viral treatment against COVID-19 has been approved for emergency use.

In case you missed our recent webinars, you can watch them here:

[Eating Healthy While Sheltering in Place](#) with Luis Perez

[Working from Home: Untangling Stiffness & Soreness](#) with Amanda Harris and Dr. Robert Quarles

[How to Conquer Dizziness, Vertigo and Tinnitus](#) with Dr. Emily Roush

Expansion of in-office appointments at WellcomeMD

We are very happy to announce we will begin **seeing patients in our office as needed starting Monday, May 11**. In addition to sick visits, patients will now have the option of having in-office visits for physical appointments and other appointments as requested. However, lab reviews will still be conducted virtually or by phone.

With this transition, we will continue to be vigilant in following our enhanced guidelines for the safety of our patients and staff. This includes:

- No guests: If a family member or friend accompanies you to an appointment, they will need to remain in the vehicle.
- Please call ahead: When you arrive for your appointment, please call our front desk from your vehicle and a member of our medical team will welcome you at the door and guide you to your exam room.

- Please wear a mask: We request that all patients wear a mask when they enter the office.
- Screenings on arrival: Once you arrive for your appointment, in addition to being asked to wear a mask, you will also have your temperature checked and be screened for possible symptoms and exposure relating to COVID-19.

In addition, our medical staff will continue to follow the enhanced safety guidelines we have had in place since March, including but not limited to:

- Sanitizing the office and exam rooms after each patient, including wiping down door handles, exam beds and the front desk
- Wearing proper personal protective equipment
- Limiting the number of people in the office at one time
- Performing COVID-19 testing at curbside

If you have any questions relating to this policy, or need to schedule an appointment, please contact our office.

Don't risk your health. Phone us first.

At times, it may feel like the world has come to a standstill during the COVID-19 pandemic. But while we've hit pause on many parts of our lives, your health needs haven't necessarily changed.

An emergency event like a heart attack or a worrisome mole or lump should be addressed.

The emergency room is still the place for you if you are experiencing critical medical problems. This includes major injuries, serious allergic reactions, animal bites, severe burns, poisoning, severe abdominal pain, coughing up blood and, of course, heart attack and stroke.

"Everyone at the ER is screened for COVID-19," WellcomeMD's Dr. Matthew Acampora said. "Common areas and patient rooms are cleaned frequently and patients with COVID-19 are treated separately from those without COVID-19."

Any medical emergency is scary. And your stress may be elevated because of the pandemic. We at WellcomeMD are doing all we can to prevent unnecessary visits to

the ER. However, in some circumstances it can't be avoided.

Please don't ignore potential emergencies. **If you are concerned or have questions about whether or not you should visit the ER, please reach out to us.**

Experimental drug approved to treat COVID-19

Late last week, the FDA [issued an Emergency Use Authorization](#) for the anti-viral drug remdesivir for the treatment of COVID-19. It is the first such approval in the fight against the disease.

Remdesivir was [effective against COVID-19 in two clinical trials](#), including one conducted by the National Institutes of Health. In both trials, the drug was able to reduce the recovery time for severely ill patients.

While this is an important step in our fight against the pandemic, there are still some limitations. Remdesivir is currently an IV drug that is only administered in hospitals. However, it is our first proof that we can use medicine to effectively treat COVID-19.

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