

Policies and procedures related to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

1. Blue Bell PT's office is committed to maintaining a healthy work and therapeutic environment for our employees, patients and doctors.
2. We will adhere to policies and recommendations made by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, CDC, OSHA and HHS as they become available.
3. Currently, best practices are to continue our standard procedures of infection control, which have been developed over years of use for other bacterial and viral contagions, which are collectively known as Universal Precautions by OSHA <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/hospital/hazards/univprec/univ.html>
4. Starting immediately, we need to have a very low threshold for asking patients or employees who show symptoms of upper respiratory infections to stay away from the office until that individual is medically cleared of coronavirus. We attempt to differentiate between coronavirus, influenza or other upper respiratory infections ourselves.
 - a. Symptoms that are suspicious include:
 - i. Persistent coughing, not associated with allergies or environmental irritants
 - ii. Nasal and respiratory congestions not associated with allergies or environmental irritants
 - iii. Lymphadenopathy (swollen glands)
 - iv. Fever
 - v. Fatigue
 - vi. Shortness of Breath

For more see: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov.about/symptoms.html>
5. We reserve the right to take oral temperature of any patient or employee, Failure to permit this will cause the patient or employee to be forced to leave the office
 - a. We reserve the right to send a suspicious employee to a qualified health care individual or facility for appropriate testing
 - b. Patients who have upper respiratory conditions and have emergency dental conditions or those who are experiencing complications from treatment should be screened by phone by one of the doctors or DPS before being given an appointment.
6. Blue Bell PT's office cannot supply masks or personal protection equipment (gloves, gowns, hats etc) to patients. We will permit employees to take home masks for immediate family members, but not extended family members. We cannot tolerate employees taking sterilization wipes or other cleaning or sterilization supplies home for personal use.
7. Do your part to keep your work environment safe:
 - a. Wash your hands frequently
 - b. Clean your workspace frequently
 - i. Wipe down phone, computer keyboard, mouse and desk surfaces with antiseptic wipes daily
 - ii. Wipe down areas that patients touch with antiseptic wipes daily (pens, clipboards, countertops, coffee machine, water dispenser, doorknobs) frequently
 - c. Do not hesitate to tell team members or doctors if you suspect a problem
 - d. Do not hesitate to share our efforts and affirmative actions with patients or other employees at other offices
 - e. No more shaking hands!