



ANDORRA PEDIATRICS

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Dear Andorra Pediatrics' Families,

The Coronavirus outbreak has been very disturbing for everyone causing a lot of anxiety. Please continue to follow the daily Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations. The 2 most important things we can all control now are good handwashing and avoiding any unnecessary trips to crowded areas where you may be exposed to someone who does not know they are infected. We will all get through this difficult time. Do not panic unnecessarily!

Currently, young children do not seem at this time to be affected. Elderly patients (grandparents) with underlying respiratory or heart disease appear to be at greater risk of more serious illness. Extreme shortness of breath is an important symptom that requires immediate medical evaluation. If this occurs, please have individual contact their primary physician's office to discuss further.

If you have traveled out of the country or to other areas in US where Coronavirus has been shown to be a problem, please inform our office before coming in. If you have been in contact with anyone thought to have Coronavirus, please let our office know before coming in.

Currently, we are not recommending culturing for Coronavirus in children. If you feel your child is sick, please call our office so we can help you decide if we need to see your child.

We have seen a lot of cases of Influenza this winter. Children who had the flu vaccine, have developed Flu and although running higher fevers, have all recovered quickly.

We still strongly recommend everyone receive the Flu vaccine even if you are diagnosed by culture with Flu. When you are diagnosed with a Flu infection, this only involves one of many strains and does not protect you from getting a different strain.

You cannot get the Flu from the vaccine and the vaccine is very safe. The vaccine this year has been very effective in terms of lessening more serious complications of Flu (death).

Flu infection is the more likely diagnosis in a child with the sudden onset of high fever (103) and severe coughing/wheezing. We would need to see your child and do a Flu culture before deciding on treatment. The treatment for Flu does not cure the Flu, but may lessen the degree of illness if given in the first 48 hours. If your child has had fever and cough greater than 4 days, treatment with Tamiflu for Flu is not recommended.

We will be using video conferencing calls to help families with a sick child who are unable to get into the office because a parent or family member may have been exposed to someone with Coronavirus. We can gauge the degree of illness of your child and help direct you in terms of where to seek care.

We will all get through anxiety producing period of time until there is an effective treatment for Coronavirus. Please remain calm and remember, children do not seem to be affected with this new virus in ways that it is affecting older individuals.

Comparisons of Coronavirus - Influenza - Allergies

Coronavirus

- 1. Fever**
- 2. Cough**
- 3. Extreme shortness of breath or difficulty breathing**
- 4. Symptoms appear 2-14 days after exposure**

Influenza

- 1. Fever**
- 2. Nasal congestion**
- 3. Sore throat**
- 4. Cough and/or wheezing (rapid onset)**
- 5. Muscle aches**
- 6. Fatigue & weakness**
- 7. Chills & sweats**

Allergies

- 1. Sneezing**
- 2. Itchy nose, eyes or roof of mouth**
- 3. Runny and/or stuffy nose**
- 4. Watery, red or swollen eyes**
- 5. No fever**