

SOUTHERN BONE & JOINT SPECIALISTS, PA:

To: Patients of Southern Bone & Joint Specialists, PA (SBJS)
From: Physicians of SBJS
RE: COVID-19
Date: March 16, 2019

Discussions and concerns surrounding Coronavirus (COVID-19) continue at the local, state, and national levels. Our physicians and leadership team at Southern Bone & Joint Specialists, PA is closely monitoring the situation in conjunction with guidance from the Mississippi Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control.

At this time Southern Bone & Joint Specialists, PA (SBJS) is open and operating under normal business hours.

As always, the well-being of our patients and team members is our top priority, and we want to ease any concerns about this issue. Please be assured that our medical staff and employees follow strict guidelines for cleaning and sanitizing work surfaces, common use areas, and treatment rooms to reduce/prevent the spread of illnesses. Hand washing and sanitizing are handled very carefully and thoroughly between each patient. In addition, for the safety of our patients, SBJS will be restricting access to our facility to all non-essential personnel and visitors.

If you have a scheduled appointment at any of our locations, please plan to keep this appointment unless you are experiencing symptoms like fever, cough, or shortness of breath, or if you have had contact with someone known to have COVID-19. The CDC's most recent recommendations are that patients with symptoms of COVID-19 stay home and contact their primary healthcare provider for guidance. If you are sick (fever, coughing, achiness), please call our office at 601-554-7400 to reschedule your appointment at a later time when you are no longer running fever or experiencing symptoms.

Regarding appointments:

- We ask patients to limit the number of guests that accompany them to one individual.
- Please do not bring any children under 12 to your appointment.
- All patients and guest will be asked to wash their hands as they enter the building.
- If any patient has active symptoms, such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath, or other respiratory symptoms including congestion or runny nose, please contact the office before your appointment.
- When scheduling appointments, all patients will be screened for their contact with someone who has COVID-19, and for symptoms of respiratory illness.

The most important steps to take are the same as for every cold and flu season:

- Stay home when you are sick.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, or having been in a public place.
- If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- To the extent possible, avoid touching high-touch surfaces in public places – elevator buttons, door handles, handrails, handshaking with people, etc. Use a tissue or your sleeve to cover your hand or finger if you must touch something.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Avoid crowds, especially in poorly ventilated spaces. Your risk of exposure to respiratory viruses like COVID-19 may increase in crowded, closed-in settings with little air circulation if there are people in the crowd who are sick.
- Avoid all non-essential travel including plane trips, and especially avoid embarking on cruise ships.
- Stay informed – check the CDC site regularly for new updates.