

Access Acupuncture, PLLC

12915 Jones Maltsberger Rd, STE 600 | San Antonio, TX 78247 | (210) 504-5544

Pandemic Infectious Disease

Purpose

To reduce the risk of further spreading the COVID-19 virus cases of a pandemic outbreak.

Policy

Patients with COVID-19 virus will be identified; actions will be taken to limit the further transmission, while adhering to local, state, and federal guidelines in cases or a pandemic.

Note: Many patients with illnesses such as COVID-19 are able to remain in their homes during the course of their illness. The role of the Pandemic Infectious Disease plan is to take measures to protect the staff and prevent further spread of the illness.

COVID-19 is transmitted mostly through airborne droplets (sneezing and coughing), but indirect contact through hand transfer from contaminated surfaces (such as nose and mouth) can occur. The virus can transfer between people who are in close contact with one another (approximately within 6 feet). Symptoms of COVID-19 range from mild disease to non-specific signs and symptoms of acute respiratory illness, to severe pneumonia with respiratory failure and septic shock. There have also been reports with asymptomatic infections.

Definition:

COVID-19: Strain or type of coronavirus that was first detected in Wuhan, China. It is linked to the same family of coronavirus that causes MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV

Procedure

1. The practice will research, and update information and guidance provided by Federal, State and Local Agencies regarding any policy changing effecting business operations and patient care.
2. During the pandemic “alert” period, the practice will assure adequate supplies and equipment so that cross-contamination from patient to patient will not occur.
 - a. Ensure all staff have access to an appropriate amount of personal protective equipment for each patient seen on a daily basis
 - b. Supplies and personal protective equipment should include
 - i. Surgical Masks
 - ii. Gloves
 - iii. Disposable gowns
 - iv. Face Shields
 - v. Goggles
 - vi. Antimicrobial Soaps
 - vii. Alcohol based hand hygiene products
 - viii. EPA Approved COVID-19 Disinfectant
 - ix. Other disposables

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3. When confirming patient's appointments staff will conduct COVID-19 screening using a clinic approved questionnaire, based on the CDC's guidelines that help identify vulnerable and high-risk individuals and those who are viral symptomatic. Those determined to be appropriate for referral will be deferred and referred prior to coming to the office. One the day of treatment patients will be re-screened using the approved questionnaire along with taking body temperature. Any response changes to the questionnaire will be noted on the form and referred, if necessary. Patient's whose body temperature exceeds 100 F will be referred.
 - a. See COVID-19 Patient Screening Questionnaire
4. Patients require emergency medical attention if the follow occur:
 - a. Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
 - b. Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
 - c. New confusion or inability to arouse
 - d. Bluish lips or face
 - e. Other concerning signs or symptoms
5. Management of patients who have symptoms indicating possible COVID-19 infection during a pandemic will be handled by:
 - a. Following any local, state, federal guidelines during the pandemic
 - b. Implement source control measures, (i.e., placing a facemask over a patient's nose and mouth.)
 - c. Inform Clinic Director, and state and local public health authorities
 - d. Obtain clinical specimens as ordered using proper bio-containment protocols
 - e. Isolate patient until transported – emergency transport plan: Call 911 EMS
6. Staff should follow the practice's standard precautions, including:
 - a. Hand Hygiene: Wash hands before/after patient contact, after contact with any potentially infectious material, and before and after donning protective equipment, including gloves and masks. This applies to patients also.
 - b. Gloves: Wear gloves for any contact with potentially infectious material (e.g., secretions, tissues, dirty linens).
 - c. Gowns should be worn with patient care activity when contact with bodily fluids is likely, including respiratory excretions.
7. Staff with signs and symptoms of respiratory infection should not report to work
8. If staff develop signs and symptoms of a respiratory infection when on-the-job should:
 - a. Immediately stop work, if not wearing a mask, then don mask and self-isolate at home.

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- b. Clinic Manager should identify and document all materials, equipment, places and persons with whom the symptomatic person came in contact with at this business location; and
- c. Contact and follow the local health department's recommendations for next steps (e.g., testing, locations for treatment).

Resources:

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

CMS: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-18-hha.pdf>