

# ALLERGY & ASTHMA CENTER OF SOUTHERN OREGON

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The Allergy and Asthma Center is committed to remaining an asset to the COVID-19 response in Southern Oregon. As we work through this challenge, we want to clearly communicate our strategy:

1. **We remain confident that we can and will get through this!** Our providers and staff remain optimistic as we adjust to current conditions.
2. **We remain open for patient care.** We have implemented multiple layers of physical distancing, screening patients who are seen in our offices (including allergy shot patients), cleaning and protective measures. We are committed to providing care to patients who might otherwise use the Emergency Department or Urgent Care.
3. **Immunotherapy remains an important protective treatment for asthma and airways inflammation.** We are able to continue allergy shots using additional safety strategies. **Chronic respiratory disease is a risk factor for severe illness in COVID-19;** as such, we recommend that allergy shot patients continue their program. We can adjust dosing as needed to accommodate patients who may not be able to build on the normal schedule.
4. **Continue asthma controller medications.** We know that uncontrolled asthma is a risk factor for hospitalization in the context of a viral respiratory infection.
5. **We offer TELEMEDICINE** when patients are unable or uncomfortable coming to the office for a visit. Importantly, **any acutely ill patient (fever, body aches, dehydration, cough, sore throat, sinus pain, severe fatigue) cannot be seen in our office, but we can offer a telemedicine visit.** This can now be done via any platform, as regulatory authorities have loosened requirements in the face of this monumental community health challenge. We can talk via video conference (FaceTime, WhatsApp, Google Hangouts, Messenger, other) or via traditional audio telephone call. This has been useful in our office the past 2 weeks as we get medications and diagnostic test orders to patients fast.
6. Patients on IVIG or SCIG should continue their treatments uninterrupted.

We thank our patients, staff, and the local healthcare community for remaining flexible as we adjust hours and locations to meet the needs of the community while managing safety. Please refer to our website and social media feeds (Facebook, Instagram) for additional updates.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Parks MD  
Medical Director  
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