

Dear Patients:

KSF Orthopaedics is aware of the situation regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19), and is taking steps to prepare our facilities for patients that have concerns about contracting the disease. Here is what we know:

Current knowledge on how COVID-19 spreads is based on what is known about early COVID-19 cases and what is known about similar coronaviruses. Most often, viruses are spread from person-to-person and this happens during close exposure (within 6 feet) to a person infected with COVID-19. Person-to-person spread is thought to occur mainly via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, or sneezes, similar to how influenza viruses and other respiratory pathogens spread. These droplets can land in the mouths, noses, or eyes of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. It is currently unclear if a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.

****Effective May 1, 2020 Harris County face covering ordinance is in effect. This is also a mandate presented by the Texas Medical Board that all medical facilities require masks for all patient-physician encounters. Any person entering our offices will be required to wear a face mask/covering based on these new guidelines.**

KSF Orthopaedic Center continues to provide orthopedic care during this uncertain COVID-19 pandemic. For the safety of our patients and staff, all of our facilities are following CDC guidelines regarding social distancing and limiting our waiting areas.**

We continue to encourage at-risk patients with non-urgent needs to reschedule appointments to a later date. If you are experiencing flu-like symptoms, please reschedule. We are open for all orthopedic emergencies, including all fracture care. We are also offering telemedicine service for new and established patients. If you are interested in a telemedicine appointment, please call us at (281)440-6960 and we can help you determine if a telemedicine visit would be appropriate for you.

Here are some tips to help prevent the spread of the disease:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. Wash your hands well after.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.
 - CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies).

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- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

We at KSF are monitoring the situation and will do what is in the best interest of our patients to ensure their safety and the safety of the staff caring for our patients. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the office at 281-440-6960.