

VPCHC's COVID-19 SAFEGUARD PLAN

As an essential business, VPCHC's safety protocols to address the risks presented by COVID-19 have been in place since the beginning of the pandemic and have been enhanced as needed throughout. The following measures have been put in place to ensure the health and safety of our employees, patients and community at large.

Health Screening Process

- Daily temperature screenings for all employees will occur at all VPCHC sites. Screenings shall occur in the morning upon entrance to a VPCHC site and at the end of employee's shift.
- All VPCHC patients and visitors will receive a temperature screening and series of questions when entering a VPCHC site. If a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees is detected, we will place patient or visitor in a separate part of the waiting room or ask them to wait in their vehicle.
- VPCHC has also advised all employees to pay special attention to their own health and report any symptoms to their supervisor.
- All employees or patients with symptoms or are suspected COVID-19 are seen by a primary care provider and tested for the virus.

Enhanced Cleaning Protocols

- VPCHC will thoroughly clean daily all occupied facilities using cleaners that are an EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectant.
- All VPCHC exam rooms will be cleaned and sanitized after patient appointment and use of the exam room using cleaners that are an EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectant.
- VPCHC will follow standard practices for disinfection and sterilization of all medical devices.
- Hand-washing stations and hand sanitizers are placed in and outside exam rooms and other high traffic areas and will be kept fully stocked.
- Emergency disinfecting protocols as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) deep cleaning guidelines will be triggered in areas where confirmed cases.
- VPCHC will maintain limited volume of patients at the clinic to ensure proper cleaning in between patient appointments.

Personal Protective Equipment

- All VPCHC employees and patients or visitors will wear a face covering while at a VPCHC clinic. Universal masking protocols are implemented.
- All VPCHC employees will wear non-sterile gloves when examining patient.
- All VPCHC employees who enter the room of a patient with known or suspected COVID-19 should adhere to CDC Standard Precautions and use a respirator (or facemask if a respirator is not available), gown, gloves and eye protection.

Social Distancing Actions

- All employees who may work from home will continue working from home.
- 10 or more employees may not congregate in a room unless 6 feet distance may be maintained between employees.
- All staff meetings will be conducted via Zoom.
- All behavioral health patients will be seen via telemedicine.
- When possible, telemedicine will be used for medical visits.
- VPCHC has limited points of entry for patients and visitors and all are social distancing in any waiting room.
- Patients are asked to not bring anyone else to their appointment unless necessary.
- VPCHC has designated facilities as well as designated areas of certain facilities to be used as a "respiratory virus evaluation center" where patients with fever or COVID-19 symptoms can seek evaluation and care. These areas will be kept separate from VPCHC areas designated for well patients.
- VPCHC patients with suspected COVID symptoms will be isolated in designated exam rooms.
- Dental operations are limited to lower aerosol producing procedures (no ultrasonic).