



## Reproductive Medicine Associates of Connecticut

Mark P. Leondires, MD, FACOG    Spencer S. Richlin, MD, FACOG    Joshua M. Hurwitz, MD, F  
Cynthia M. Murdock, MD, FACOG    Shaun C. Williams, MD, FACOG    Ilana B. Ressler, MD, F

761 Main Avenue  
Suite 200  
Norwalk, CT 06851  
T: 203 750-7400  
F: 203 846-9579

### COVID-19 PATIENT STATEMENT AS OF 3/19/20 @ 11:00AM

Dear Patients,

Along with everyone else in our community, we are actively monitoring global developments related to the coronavirus (COVID-19). Our priorities at RMA of CT remain the health and safety of our patients and staff, as well as providing you with a positive, successful experience. We have enhanced our screening policies to comply with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Protection (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), and state and local public health authorities. The COVID-19 crisis is evolving rapidly, and our physicians and senior staff are reviewing developments and recommended safety precautions on a daily basis.

#### **Current Facts about COVID-19 Coronavirus:**

- There is limited data about risks of COVID-19 during conception and pregnancy.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website is the recommended source for up-to-date, detailed information about COVID-19
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- The majority of people who contract COVID-19 have not required hospitalization; symptoms are often mild, and most can recover at home.
- If you have flu-like symptoms, please contact your primary care physician's office.
- The steps to protect yourself from COVID-19 are generally the same as those for the flu.
- The best prevention is through washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands. If you don't have a tissue available, cough or sneeze into your elbow.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- The CDC recommends that people who are well **not** wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19 because they are ineffective for this purpose. Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of these diseases to prevent the spread of the disease to others.

#### **How COVID-19 relates to my treatment at RMA of CT:**

We know that you are concerned regarding how this may potentially impact your upcoming IVF, FET, Gestational Carrier FET, or IUI cycle. We are committed to providing continuous care for as long as it is safe and prudent to do so. Some potential scenarios that might affect our ability to deliver care include:

- A patient may contract the coronavirus prior to the cycle start (or is exposed and quarantined) — and will not be able to come to the clinic for monitoring, egg retrieval or other procedures.
- A cycle is started, and the patient subsequently contracts the coronavirus (or is exposed and quarantined) and is not able to come to the clinic for monitoring or the egg retrieval procedure, frozen embryo transfer, or IUI
- The staff essential for IVF services may not be able to work in the clinic (e.g. embryology, MDs, nurses, anesthesiology) secondary to illness or governmental restrictions.
- RMA of CT may have to cancel elective procedures secondary to state or federal mandate.
- Necessary medical and/or laboratory supplies or personal protective equipment (PPE) become unavailable that makes it necessary to cancel procedures.

We remain committed to providing services for as long as it is safe and feasible to do so. Presently, you have the option to continue with IVF, FET, or IUI cycles with start dates prior to 3/25. We will reconsider this option on a weekly basis thereafter.

It is essential that you acknowledge and accept these conditions. In the event your cycle is cancelled for any of the above reasons, you will be financially responsible for the services you may have already received, including medications, lab tests, and ultrasounds. We recommend that you speak with your Insurance & Billing Advocate to understand the implications of this for your specific circumstance.

Additionally, you will be asked to sign a treatment waiver if you wish to continue diagnostic and fertility treatment care at RMA of CT at this time. Your physician or a member of our physician team will call you to review the treatment waiver, provide any additional education necessary concerning COVID-19 and fertility treatment, answer any questions you may have and to obtain your consent to proceed with treatment if you desire to do so.

**What to expect if I have to come into a RMA of CT office:**

All of our consultations, including new patient consults, follow-up visits and IVF consults will be scheduled as telehealth visits, whether by phone or video call. Your co-payment, co-insurance or deductible payments still apply. However, if you are coming into a RMA of CT office, we have increased secondary health screening requirements. In advance of visiting our office and upon arrival, patients will be asked questions regarding symptoms and travel history. Patients will be asked to not come to the office if they have cough, fever, shortness of breath or other flu-like symptoms. We also ask that you take your own temperature the morning of your visit, and if it is greater than 99.5 degrees Fahrenheit please do not come to the office.

Upon entry into the office you will be asked screening questions, requested to wash your hands, and have your temperature taken. We reserve the right to send any patient home who has a fever. All RMA of CT staff members still working onsite are also completing daily temperature checks.

Family members (partners and children) are no longer allowed in the waiting area. We kindly ask that they wait in the car or outside our offices. Male partners producing specimens will be asked to produce off-site and drop off the specimen at set time. Collection kits with paperwork will be provided.

If you have further concerns, or want more information, please refer to:

The CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

There is guidance from our professional society which you should review in detail:  
<https://www.asrm.org/news-and-publications/news-and-research/press-releases-and-bulletins/asrm-issues-new-guidance-on-fertility-care-during-COVID-19-pandemiccalls-for-suspension-of-most-treatments/>

Sincerely,

Mark P. Leondires, MD  
Medical Director, RMA of Connecticut