



To our valued patients:

The Coronavirus (Covid-19) situation is fluid and recommendations are changing daily. At the Fertility Center, we are trying to make sense of this while continuing to provide the best care for our patients. Our national professional society, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) has published two sets of recommendations in the past 5 days.

The original ASRM recommendations were (as they put it), out of an abundance of caution. They recommended that patients actively undergoing infertility treatment avoid the transfer of embryos if they were experiencing symptoms (fever or cough, shortness of breath), or had been exposed (within 6 feet, and within 14 days of onset of symptoms) to someone with a positive COVID-19 test, or if they had tested positive themselves.

Now that San Francisco, in particular, is mostly shut down and more serious quarantines are being considered elsewhere, ASRM has changed their recommendations to postponement of all new cycles, including IUI, IVF (both retrieval and transfer cycles) and even postponing diagnostic procedures such as ultrasound evaluation of the uterus and tubes.

We at the Fertility Center are keeping a close watch on developments and believe that such a total shutdown is an overreaction (particularly in lower risk areas) to a problem that will be continuing for quite some time. While limiting exposure to high risk environments (large gatherings with close contact, persons with symptoms or those with recent travel to higher risk areas) is prudent, total shutdown is neither practical nor entirely possible.

We therefore have elected to continue to see our patients. We will be offering the opportunity for consultation by phone, or virtual software. Be assured that there will be no disruptions of your cycles, once initiated, unless mandated by law. We would however, offer you the option to postpone your cycle at your discretion. We would remind you however, that while the small amount of information about this particular virus and pregnancy are reassuring, that data is incomplete and very limited.

This virus is primarily a respiratory virus. Its main modes of spread are through airborne droplets from close contact and by touching infected surfaces with your hands and then transferring the virus to your face by touching your face. The highest risk spot in any office, therefore, is the waiting room. You will notice some changes in our offices. When you arrive we will check your temperature to make sure you do not have a fever. The staff will also have their temperature checked daily. When we are unable to keep patients at least 6 feet apart in the waiting room, you will be asked to wait in your vehicle and we will text or call when we have everything ready for your visit. All magazines and beverage services have been removed to make frequent cleaning of surfaces easier.

We ask for your patience and understanding as we continue to provide care.

Sincerely,

Your Fertility Center staff.

<https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov.html>

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