

Dear Patients,

With the current concern regarding community-based spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, we have been asked to observe social distancing. This involves avoiding large gatherings, crowded places, and non-essential travel. Schools have been closed nationwide and employees are being asked to work from home when possible.

In addition healthcare workers have been advised to strengthen patient screening procedures and employ telehealth when appropriate.

After much deliberation and discussion with other allergy practices in the area, and around the country, we at Dr. Helbing Allergy and Asthma Associates have reached the conclusion that the safest option for our patients and staff at this time is to limit the number of days the office is open. We will also limit the office visits to patients in need of immediate attention. However, considering the fact that we are not a SARS-CoV-2 testing site, we will not be able to see any patients with fever, cough, shortness of breath and some other respiratory symptoms. Patients with those symptoms will need to undergo phone triage with our on-call physicians who will be able to assist with any calls. Finally, we will also be limiting our allergy shot hours and patients who feel the need to receive shots will need to do so only by appointment on select days next week.

Hence effective immediately, our offices will be closed for the remainder of this week. All scheduled patients will be contacted and rescheduled. We will identify days next week where we will be open to administer allergy shots for patients who can not go any further without their shots such as patients on venom immunotherapy. These days will be posted on our web site and patients will need to schedule visits in advance.

In the meanwhile please continue to reach out to us with any questions that arise. We will be available 24x7.

Thanks for understanding as we go through uncharted territory.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Helbing Allergy and Asthma Associates.