



GEORGIAN
CARDIOLOGY ASSOCIATES

COVID-19 CLINICAL UPDATE

March 16, 2020

Dear Patients and Family Members,

As you are undoubtedly aware, the novel coronavirus COVID-19 first identified in Wuhan, China in December 2019 was recently classified as a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Thus far, we have confirmed 2 cases of COVID-19 at Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) and this has had an impact on operations at RVH. After discussion amongst the physicians of the clinic, and in order to minimize transmission given the recent public health recommendations of social distancing and staying home when unwell, we have elected to perform clinical follow-ups and consultations over the phone or telemedicine (OTN). As a result, you may be contacted by our office regarding your appointment. Please be aware that you may receive a phone call from a blocked number as it may be the cardiologist contacting you for your clinical follow-up.

Effective immediately, we will be canceling all clinic cardiac testing including Holter monitoring, ambulatory blood pressure monitoring, echocardiography, stress echocardiography and treadmill stress testing. This decision was made given the fact that we have seen evidence of community transmission in Ontario. As a result, we would like to minimize the risk to the general public as well as our staff with respect to transmission of the coronavirus. This will be evaluated on a week by week basis by the cardiologists based on public health recommendations and patients will be informed accordingly.

Consistent with the message from the Chief Public Health Officer and the Chief Medical Officer of Health, we do advise all patients to avoid non-essential travel outside the country and if travel has been performed, close monitoring for symptoms such as fever and cough should be undertaken. We also advise patients to stay home and not come to clinic if they are feeling unwell. Should you develop any symptoms of fever, cough or difficulty breathing, please contact TeleHealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 or the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit at 705-721-7520 on weekdays or after hours at 1-888-225-7851. A COVID-19 Assessment Centre is being set up starting on March 16, 2020 at the Barrie Community Health Centre on 490 Huronia Road. This will be for identification of suspected cases that would be directed to the hospital for testing as testing would not be performed at that location.

As cardiologists, we take the health and well-being of our patients extremely seriously and apologize for the inconvenience around these measures. Our sincere hope is to help control the spread of infection in our county, province and country. We will strive to continue to provide excellent cardiac care for the community through this challenging time. Thank you for your understanding.

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