Good afternoon Ohio AAP Members,

We have received requests from members for guidance on how to adapt practice operations during the next several weeks as we are faced with increased changes in the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have reached to out to National AAP for official guidance, however, in the meantime we would like to share what other systems and large practices are doing to keep children safe and healthy over next several weeks.

While there is no official guidance yet, our Practice of Pediatrics Pillar of the Ohio AAP wanted our members to be aware that there are different strategies practices are using in this environment. Many systems and larger practices are alternating visits to provide well child care in the morning and sick visits in the afternoon, followed by nightly sanitation of the office, to make sure patients are receiving critical care such as immunizations. Some practices have utilized telemedicine to assist their patients during this time as well and we are advocating for payment of these types of services, even if only a temporary emergency order. Please remember to utilize your technology channels, if applicable, such as social media or your website to communicate to your patients and families about your office policies during this time to cut down on unnecessary phone calls.

Prior to any visits, the official CDC guidance is to provide telephone triage with patients to make sure they are not experiencing any respiratory issues and they have not been in contact with anyone who has been confirmed to have COVID-19 prior to coming into the office. Curbside check-in for families is another option, this would allows families to wait in their car for a phone call to be roomed. We have been additionally reaching out to the administration to see if they will provide reimbursement for areas of care that could be delivered remotely, such as medication checks, and will keep you posted. The administration did provide for an emergency ruling around Medicaid and behavioral health to be provided over the telephone, but it is unclear if this will be expanded to private payors as well.

Finally, we know many of you have reached out about PPE. The administration’s guidance in this area is that if you have PPE resource needs, to please let your County Emergency Management Agency know. A County Emergency Management Agency Directory is available at https://webeoctraining.dps.ohio.gov/ohiocountyEMADirectorList/countyemalist_web.aspx.

In addition to guidance above, we have resources that will help you in practice:

COVID-19 Infographic

Ohio AAP COVID-19 Family Resource Guide
ODH Guidance for Primary Care & Outpatient Providers

Letter for Primary Care and Outpatient Providers (PPE)

March 14, 2020 Ohio Department Health Alert

March 14, 2020 Ohio Department of Health Director’s Journal Entry

Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 Website

Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 Hotline: 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634)

Inbox for COVID-19 legislative inquiries: questions@governor.ohio.gov

We added a direct link to COVID-19 resources on our homepage, this makes it easier for our members to locate the latest updates in pediatrics.

Please share your strategies for your practice or system with our community on social media. If you are not on social, but you still want to share with your colleagues, email Olivia Simon and she will share on your behalf.

Facebook: AAP Ohio

Twitter:@ohpediatricians

Instagram: Ohio AAP

We wish you, our members, the best of health and wellness and please contact our CEO, Melissa Wervey Arnold at marnold@ohioaap.org if we can assist you in any capacity.
References


