

# Covid-19 FAQ's

# Do you offer Covid-19 testing?

We offer Covid-19 testing to patients that are scheduled for select in-office procedures. We do not offer routine testing or testing to patients that have been exposed. Please go to the following link to find testing near you: https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/testing.aspx

## Do you offer the Covid-19 vaccine?

No, unfortunately we do not offer the Covid-19 vaccine in our office. You can go to <a href="https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine-hubs.aspx">https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine-hubs.aspx</a> to find out if you are eligible to receive the vaccine and to find a vaccination clinic near you.

# Do you recommend the Covid-19 vaccine for pregnant patients?

Getting vaccinated is a personal choice for women who are pregnant. Vaccines currently available are undergoing testing for use in pregnancy. Currently there is no long-term safety data specific for use in pregnancy. However, the World Health Organization is recommending pregnant women receive the vaccine.

Some things to consider when making the decision to get vaccinated includes:

- 1. Your likelihood of exposure to Covid-19
- 2. Your health risks of contracting Covid-19 vs. the potential side effects of getting the vaccine.
- 3. Your potential of spreading Covid-19 to elderly and immune compromised people.

#### Do you recommend the Covid-19 vaccine for breastfeeding patients?

There are no data on the safety of Covid-19 vaccines in breastfeeding women or on the effects of the vaccines on the breastfed infant or on milk production/excretion. The vaccines are not thought to be a risk to the breastfeeding infant and may be beneficial because maternal antibodies may protect the infant. Again, you should consider your health risks of contracting Covid-19 vs. the potential side effects of getting the vaccine.

# Are pregnant women at higher risk for Covid-19?

Pregnant women or recently pregnant women who are older, overweight, and have pre-existing medical conditions such as hypertension and diabetes seem to have an increased risk of developing severe Covid-19. When pregnant women develop severe disease, they also seem to require care more often in intensive care units than non-pregnant women of reproductive age.

# Can Covid-19 be passed from mother to baby?

While much is still unknown about the risks of Covid-19 to newborns born to mothers with Covid-19, we do know that it is uncommon for transmission to occur during pregnancy. Some newborns have tested positive for Covid-19 shortly after birth, but it is still unknown if these newborns got the virus before, during, or after birth.

#### If I have Covid-19, can I still breastfeed?

Current evidence suggests that breast milk is not likely to spread the virus to babies. Breast milk provides your newborn with protection against many illnesses and is the best source of nutrition for most babies. You should always wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds before breastfeeding or expressing breast milk, even if you do not have Covid-19. If water and soap is not available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

## When should I get tested for Covid-19?

You should always get tested for Covid-19 if you develop any symptoms or have had close contact (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more) with someone with confirmed Covid-19. You do not have to get tested due to a secondary exposure (contact with someone who was exposed to Covid-19) unless you develop symptoms.

## How long should I quarantine after an exposure?

Always follow the most up to date CDC guidelines for quarantine times. At the time of this post, the options for quarantine after a known exposure is currently:

# 10 days without testing

7 days after receiving a negative test results (test must occur on day 5 or later)
After stopping quarantine, you should still watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure. If you develop symptoms, immediately self-isolate and contact your healthcare provider.