



Providing Excellence to the Practice of Occupational Medicine

COVID -19 and Occupational Medicine

At Oregon Occupational Medicine, we understand that our current world circumstances regarding the pandemic of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) may bring up many questions about the occupational medicine needs of our clients. Here are several frequently-asked questions, along with our answers, in hopes to address the current topics and concerns accurately.

FAQ's

Is the clinic still open for business? 1

What happens if I can't make my appointment? 2

What if my employee is having mild symptoms can they still attend their appointment? 2

What if I have employees that are ill and can't make it in for their random DOT drug screens? 2

Are you still performing PFT's? 2

Do I still need to have my employees fit tested? 3

How should I be preparing my company for COVID-19? How should my telecommuting employees be preparing their home for COVID-19? 3

What can I do if I have a family member who is at home sick? 3

Is the clinic still open for business?

Yes. We are still open for business but are taking the utmost precaution with our staff and patients to ensure safety. The current concerns with COVID19 have caused us to enforce the following measures:

- We are not currently testing or treating any patients for coronavirus/COVID 19 in our clinic. *(To our knowledge, these services are only being performed by Urgent Care Clinics or Emergency Rooms which we are not).*
- We are verifying all patients are healthy before appointments and upon arrival (Example: confirming that patients do not currently have any cold or flu-like symptoms, have not traveled recently, or been around someone who is ill, etc.).



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- Requesting that anyone who does not feel well or who has recently been ill to wait to schedule for at least 2 weeks.
- Performing regular rigorous cleaning throughout the day.
- Maintaining window barriers in the lobby.
- Rooming patients and taking their temperatures immediately instead of having them sit in the lobby.
- Limiting the number of people in our clinic lobby.
- Limiting the types of exams we are performing during this time that would more easily transmit this contagious virus.

What happens if I can't make my appointment?

We are now offering telemedicine visits, where medically appropriate, as part of our appointment options in order to accommodate those who are currently ill or not able to come to the clinic as scheduled.

What if my employee is having mild symptoms can they still attend their appointment?

No. Currently we are not seeing any patients with any flu like symptoms. If you're not sure their symptoms would be of concern have them call our clinic and we will triage on the phone.

What if I have employees that are ill and can't make it in for their random DOT drug screens?

Generally, allowances may be made to perform the necessary tests until the individual in question is asymptomatic. Please follow the links below for specific guidance from DOT.

https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2020-03/DOT_Guidance_on_Compliance_with_Drug_and_Alcohol_Testing_Regulations.pdf

<https://www.transportation.gov/odapc/compliance-with-dot-drug-and-alcohol-testing-regulations>

Are you still performing PFT's?

Currently Oregon Occupational Medicine is still performing PFT's when it's a medical necessity. If you have any questions regarding PFT's, please don't hesitate to call us.



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Do I still need to have my employees fit tested?

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recently suspended requirements for annual respiratory protection fit testing ([Temporary Enforcement Guidance -- Healthcare Respiratory Protection Annual Fit-Testing for N95 Filtering Facepieces During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)). OSHA advises to perform an initial fit test using a qualitative method and to suspend annual fit-testing requirements during the pandemic. OSHA reiterated the need to perform user seal checks when the respirator is donned. In addition, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued "[Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators: Crisis/Alternate Strategies](#)," in the event of reduced or inadequate supply.

How should I be preparing my company for COVID-19? How should my telecommuting employees be preparing their home for COVID-19?

Please click on the link below to find answers on preparing your company for COVID-19

<https://osha.oregon.gov/Pages/re/covid-19.aspx>

Getting Your Home Ready For COVID-19

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/COVID19_FAQ_HouseholdReady-H.pdf

Also, we ask you to remember, that work comp claims can still happen from home. To help prevent those claims we are offering a e-ergo home place assessment for your employees. If you are interested in finding out more contact our Physical Therapy clinic.

What can I do if I have a family member who is at home sick?

We know that when you live with someone who is sick, your immediate concerns about COVID-19 double: You worry that you may get the virus, but you also worry about family members or roommates. Here are some tips on how you can look after someone who may be exhibiting symptoms while also keeping yourself safe.

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORDHS/bulletins/2840d33>