



PATIENTGRAM

Newsletter

July 2020

ACT's COVID-19 Protocols

As an Allergy & Immunology clinic, for the protection of our immunocompromised patients we must adhere to strict **Infection Control** standards. Please be advised that our **Infection Control** measures remain in place at all offices:

- Only the patient (or one parent with a minor child) will be allowed to come into the office for appointments or allergy injections.
- Every patient (and parent) must wear a face mask or some type of face covering while in the clinic.
- Each person entering the clinic will be asked screening questions at the front doors.
- Your temperature will be taken before admittance into the lobby is permitted.
- We ask that you maintain Social Distancing (minimum 6 feet from other patients) while in the clinics.
- Staff will continue disinfection protocols – hourly for all hard surfaces in the lobby and exam rooms after each patient is seen.

Please note that these rules have been put in place by our Doctors. We kindly ask that our staff screening at the door are treated politely and with respect

ATTENTION HEALTHCHOICE PATIENTS

Currently, HealthChoice is denying all allergy extract claims stating pre-cert was not obtained. We have never had to obtain pre-cert for this service and it even states in the policy it does not require pre-cert; they think this is an error with their claim editing system. We are encouraging our patients with this insurance carrier to contact them in regards to this matter so they understand the urgency of this issue.

College Students

Patients that will be attending college in the Fall may wish to take their allergy extract with them to continue their allergy treatments on campus. In order to accommodate those patients, the Allergy Clinic requires consents to be filled out and signed by not only the patient/guardian, but also the facility that will be administering the treatments. These consents tell us where the treatments will be given and who will oversee the administration. The consents also confirm that the physician or nurse practitioner know what to look for in the event of a reaction to the shots and how to treat it. The extract cannot be released to the patient until the consents are filled out completely and returned to the Allergy Clinic. At that point the patient can receive their extract in one of two ways: the patient can pick up the extract from the Allergy Clinic or the clinic can mail the extract to the facility where the patient will be receiving treatments. It is important to understand that this is a process that could take weeks. Please allow at least **four weeks** for the Allergy Clinic to receive the patient's notification of intent to take extract out of the office as well as the appropriate consents to be returned to us. Once the patient's extract is ready to leave our office the patient will be notified by voicemail and/or text message.

Food Restrictions in Allergist's Waiting Room?

Medically, there is a minimal risk to food allergic patients from casual exposure to foods, such as would happen if someone were eating in the waiting room. Contact with food-covered chairs and airborne food allergens does not cause a life-threatening reaction. Such exposure is part of daily life, so there is no way to completely avoid it. A food must be ingested to cause such a severe reaction. To that end, food sharing is discouraged.

The general perception is that casual food exposure does pose a risk and for that reason, many offices, including ours, ban food in the waiting room.

Sourced: <https://acaai.org/resources/connect/ask-allergist/food-restrictions-allergists-waiting-room>



Allergy Injections and Summer Safety

Summer is upon us and who doesn't enjoy spending time outdoors?! All of us at Allergy Clinic of Tulsa care about our patients' well being. We ask that you take special care during the hot summer temperatures by wearing sunscreen and applying regularly, as well as staying hydrated.

If you are sunburned or if you are overheated from being outside you should not get your allergy injection. Please be sure to exercise these precautions when receiving your allergy injections, as well:

- Avoid exercise for 1 hour before and 2 hours after receiving your injections.
- Cool down your car
- Drink plenty of water
- Limit your exposure to lawn and garden activities the day of your injection.

Getting Ready for the New School Year



You will need new medical authorization forms and emergency action plans for the next school year. We can be swamped with school paperwork at the beginning of the school year. Please be sure to drop off your form at your earliest convenience, no need for an appointment, and keep in mind that there is a \$10.00 charge to fill out the form.

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services.

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