



PATIENT & VISITOR NOTICE- CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Vios is closely monitoring the rapidly- evolving COVID-19 situation. The information and recommendations are likely to change frequently.

SARS-CoV-2 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified in Wuhan, China and has spread rapidly to other areas of the world. The disease it causes, named “coronavirus disease 2019” (abbreviated “COVID-19”), is a respiratory illness.

Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness, and common symptoms include fever, cough and/or shortness of breath. Complications include pneumonia, multi-organ failure and in some cases death. There is currently no vaccine or treatment. Medical interventions are focused on the control of symptoms and supportive care of complications.

The virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes. People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic, although some spread might be possible before people show symptoms.

Ways to help reduce the risk of contracting this and other respiratory viruses include avoiding non-essential travel (within and outside of the U.S.), avoiding close contact with people who are sick, avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth, covering your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, staying home when sick, practicing frequent and thorough hand washing and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.

If an individual develops a fever of 100.4°F/38°C or higher, cough and/or shortness of breath, he or she should seek medical advice (call ahead before going to a doctor’s office or ER) and avoid contact with others.

Per the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM): Currently, very little is known about the impact of COVID-19 on reproduction and pregnancy. Out of an abundance of caution, patients who have a high likelihood of COVID-19 (fever, cough and/or shortness of breath and a positive COVID-19 test result or exposure within 6 feet of someone with confirmed COVID-19 within 14 days of symptom onset) should strive to avoid a pregnancy, but there appears to be no cause for alarm for those already pregnant. (This recommendation does not necessarily apply when there solely is a suspicion of COVID-19, because symptoms of COVID-19 are very similar to other more common forms of respiratory illnesses).

While respiratory viruses, in general, are not known to be transmitted by implantation, transplantation, infusion or transfer of human cells, tissues, or cellular or tissue-based products (HCT/Ps) such as eggs, sperm and embryos, the potential for transmission of COVID-19 by HCT/Ps is unknown at this time. There have been no reported cases of transmission of COVID-19 via these products.

Current travel-related information is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>. However, it is important to note that COVID-19 has become widespread even within the U.S. so the risks cannot be eliminated strictly by avoiding travel.

In order to protect our patients & staff, Vios is implementing the following precautionary measures:

- 1) Non-patient visitors may not enter any Vios office, other than for pre-arranged delivery of supplies.
- 2) All patient consultations will be conducted by phone or video conferencing.
- 3) When on-site patient care is needed, such as for ultrasounds, lab work and procedures:
 - Patients will be screened for COVID-19 risk factors at the time of scheduling any on-site appointment with the following questions:

“Do you have a fever of 100.4 or higher, a cough and/or shortness of breath? If so, have you had a positive Coronavirus test result or were you within 6 feet of someone confirmed to have Coronavirus within 14 days of developing your symptoms?”

Patients without risk factors will be scheduled, but must call back if COVID-19 risk factors become evident before the appointment.

Patients with risk factors will speak with a Vios physician or nurse and the course of action will be to delay or cancel fertility services until well, which is defined as no symptoms for at least 24 hours (although up to 14 days is encouraged) without the use of medication.
 - Patients must ask before bringing a companion into the office. The same screening requirements will apply to companions as for patients.
 - Patients and companions will be screened again for COVID-19 risk factors when checking in for appointments. If risk factors are identified, the individual(s) will be asked to wait in their vehicle or otherwise outside of the Vios office away from others. A Vios physician or nurse will call with next steps.
- 4) Patients in a gestational carrier arrangement who do not live within close proximity of each other should understand that travel may be restricted, and the Intended Parents may therefore be unable to join their newborn(s) in a timely manner. All involved parties must ensure that their legal agreement includes a plan to address this possibility.
- 5) It may become necessary for Vios to temporarily consolidate the locations in which we provide services, in order for our own staff to stay home if they are not well and also to follow the requests and/or requirements of any hospitals at which we have offices.

Please contact Vios with any questions or concerns about how COVID-19 may affect your fertility services. Call the number of the office at which you typically attend doctor appointments. Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 am-4:00 pm Central. After hours, call the same number and choose the option for the “On-Call Provider.” <https://viosfertility.com/locations-doctors/>

Please stay up-to-date on the most recent CDC guidance about COVID-19 by visiting the following site: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

We look forward to helping you build your family as quickly and safely as possible.