

# Small World Pediatrics

Because Every Child is Special!®

## COVID-19 Policies & Procedures

The World Health Organization (WHO) has officially classified the SARS-CoV-2, which causes Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), as a pandemic. Also, Pasco County declared a local state of emergency on 03/12/20. Regardless of the county ordinance, as a medical office, we have an obligation to our patients and our staff to ensure that our environment is the safest it can be during the pandemic.

We are open for you! We are caring for your health to minimize your risk of contracting COVID-19 at an urgent care facility or an ER. However, to help everyone stay healthy and safe, we have made some medically necessary changes to our office policies & procedures.

At Small World Pediatrics, our goal is to reduce both your and our exposure to the SARS-CoV-2 virus in our office throughout your entire visit – from your entry, throughout your stay (hallways, exam room, bathroom), to your checkout/exit.

As a result, we have made multiple significant changes in the office. Please note that as the virus and its impact changes daily, the office needs to adapt as well. Therefore, we may change our processes at a moment's notice. We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

Although the COVID-19 vaccination has begun, we expect it will be a prolonged time until a significant proportion of the general population and children will be vaccinated. Until the general population's vaccination rates improve the COVID-19 overall percent positivity, all of our Procedures & Policies will remain intact, including mask use.

## Please note that our Policies & Procedures include but are not limited to the following:

**\*Each** visit is limited to a maximum of 1 adult with 2 children per visit, per exam room. This procedure is in place to minimize the viral load in each area of the office. The fewer people that are in an area, the less the viral load is. Hence, the lower your and our risk is of contracting COVID-19.

**\*We** will accommodate families of larger sizes by having divided appointments between the morning and the afternoon or on different days

**\*As** always, we will discuss how we can adapt some of our procedures for our families with children with special needs (e.g., Autism Spectrum Disorder) on a one-on-one basis..

**\*Everyone** age **2 years old and older** are required to use a medical mask from the time of entry, throughout the entire stay, and at the time of checkout/exit.

**\*Both** the **nose** and the **mouth** are required to be covered at all times.

**\*Facial** coverings, such as face shields, gaiters, thin veils, or other covers that are not protective masks and do not replace the office mask requirement.

**\*If** you have a **ventilated mask**, you will be asked to cover it with an additional mask. The vent protects the mask user. However, it does not protect the people around them, as the ventilated mask user's unfiltered breathe escapes into the area where others are located.

**\*If** you or your child cannot wear a mask, you will be asked to reschedule your appointment.

**\*For** young children, we recommend that you practice mask use with your child at home. We have found that this results in the most success.

**\*We** have hand sanitizer for your use at our entrance.

**\*There** is soap and water available in each room for handwashing.

**\*We** are continuing our use of hospital grade disinfectant.

**\*We** are cleaning every space after use by a patient or family, whether they are well or sick. This includes the waiting area, exam rooms, door handles, all medical equipment (e.g., tympanometry hearing screener, stethoscope, etc.), and more

**\*Our playroom** is **closed** until further notice.

**\*Our** hallways are limited to movement between rooms. Please do not allow children to play or stay in the hallways.

**\*The waiting room** is for **Well** patients only. If you have no COVID-19 symptoms, have not been exposed to COVID-19, and have an appointment for a physical exam, then you may be in the waiting room.

**\*Patients** who have **Sick** appointments will **first have a Telemedicine call**. Regardless of the nature of your illness or concern, a conversation with the doctor will take place via a video call. After a conversation and any necessary screening by the doctor, you will be advised by the doctor **when and if** you can enter our office. This is to minimize contact between patients in our office. Also, this is done to limit the viral load in the office as well.

**\*Cleared** Sick patients will be guided directly to our Triage room or to an exam room.

**\*If** exam rooms are full, patients will be asked to wait in their vehicle. We will call you once a room is available.

**\*Currently**, we are only using **Skype** for our **Telemedicine** calls. We are not able to use Zoom or other apps. We recommend you download the Skype app. Please practice using Skype before your office visit. You can search for us on Skype either by our office name, **Small World Pediatrics**, or our office number, 813-907-8001.

**\*Please note: Telemedicine is only to be used as a video call.** Please do not use it to text questions, concerns, or details regarding your child's health or paperwork.

**\*Secure** communication is available via either our Patient Portal or by phone call with the office.

**\* In** addition, we are still evaluating your child for other illnesses like Flu, Strep throat, Mono, RSV, and more.

*These COVID-19 Policies & Procedures may be updated without notice or updated on this document. Please consult with the Small World Pediatrics staff to clarify any item listed above or any procedures not listed, as they have the final decision for the safety of the office staff and visitors. Updated: 12/28/20*