

Dear Heart Failure / Pulmonary Hypertension patient –

Health and safety are always our top priorities at New York-Presbyterian. We have been preparing and planning for coronavirus (COVID-19) virus and will continue to provide the exceptional care to all of our patients and families that you have come to expect from us every day.

We know that this is a challenging time to all, although we recognize that this may be an even more stressful time for our cardiac community.

We want to reach out to you with some **general information and guidelines** in regard to COVID-19 infection, and provide specific information to address the relationship between COVID-19 and your heart condition.

We have implemented vigorous policies and procedures, and we are following all governmental recommendations. Many of our patients have reached out with questions. Below you will find the latest **recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**, including guidance on how to keep yourself and your loved ones healthy:

- Wash your hands thoroughly or use alcohol-based hand sanitizers.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick and encourage family to do the same.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and immediately wash your hands. No tissue? Cough or sneeze into your elbow, not your hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

More details Information about COVID 19 including travel can be find in our website <https://www.nyp.org/coronavirus-information>

At this time, there is not sufficient scientific evidence to support any change in the medical regimen you have been receiving as part of your cardiac care.

Given that you are a heart failure or pulmonary hypertension patient, it is important that we take extra precautions. While clinics will continue to operate, **routine clinic visits** will be postponed or transitioned to telehealth video visits (our team will contact you to provide information on how to register).

It is essential that you call in prescription refills with some additional lead time to your pharmacies.

Cardiopulmonary exercise testing for routine follow-up will be postponed. However, cardiopulmonary exercise testing being performed for a change in symptoms or per physician request (such as for essential follow up for patients on the transplant waiting list) will continue.

We are constantly assessing the evolving situations and will keep following the NYP and CDC recommendations