

## **North Metro Dermatology COVID 19 Precautions & Policies**

As we continue to navigate the complexity of the COVID-19 pandemic, we at North Metro Dermatology remain committed to the safety of our patients and staff. We are following strict protocols in our office in accordance with CDC and Minnesota Department of Health guidelines. We will continue to monitor and adapt to developments regarding the COVID-19 virus, and we will provide updates accordingly.

### **Safety policies for patients:**

**Patients are pre-screened prior to scheduled appointments.** Symptoms of COVID-19 include but are not limited to fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, diarrhea, abdominal pain, muscle aches, and/or red or bruised toes. Patients who have symptoms or have been exposed to COVID-19 will be required to reschedule an in-office appointment.

**Patients are encouraged to complete all forms ahead of the scheduled appointment in order to minimize unnecessary time in the office.** Registration and medical history forms can be completed and submitted online through the website.

**Patients are required to wear masks in the office.** Exceptions are made for children younger than two years old as well as any documented medical reason. Please understand that we will require written documentation and verbal communication with your medical provider if you state that you are unable to wear a mask. **Our staff is required to wear masks at all times.**

**Patients should come alone to their appointment.** In the case of a child or an adult patient who requires a caretaker, one adult may accompany the patient to the appointment.

**Patients should maintain a safe distance from others.** We have placed “social distancing” decals on the floor of the waiting room and checkout areas in order to maintain six feet between patients. While every effort is made to minimize waiting room time, chairs have been placed a minimum of six feet apart in accordance with CDC guidelines.

**Patients must answer screening questions and have temperatures taken with a touchless forehead thermometer when they come to the appointment.** Yes, screening questions are asked at the time of appointment in addition to pre-screening questions during appointment reminder calls. Anyone with a temperature of greater than 100 degrees F will have to reschedule their appointment.

### **Safety precautions we have implemented at North Metro Dermatology:**

**Hand sanitizers are available in the waiting room, hallways, and all patient exam rooms.**

**Patient exam rooms and surfaces are thoroughly cleaned between each visit.**

**Waiting rooms and surfaces are thoroughly cleaned between each patient.**

**Plexiglass sneezeguards have been placed in our waiting room, specifically in check-in and check-out areas to minimize contact between front desk staff and patients.**

**Our staff is required to wear masks at all times.**

**Free shipping is available for all product purchases through our online shop in order to minimize in-office purchasing.**