

Notice and Compliance Requirements Concerning COVID-19 Minimum Standards of Safe Practice

In compliance with the Texas Medical Board emergency rule related to Gov. Abbott's Executive Order GA-19, Texas Ear, Nose & Throat Specialists, LLP has adopted the following Minimum Standards for Safe Practice related to COVID-19.

(U) Notice and Compliance Requirements Concerning COVID-19 Minimum Standards of Safe Practice

- (i) All physicians providing patient care or engaging in an in-person patient encounter, must implement the following minimum COVID-19 standards of safe practice.
 - (I) a mask must be worn by both the patient and physician or the physician's delegate when in proximity of the patient (meaning less than a 6-foot distance between the patient and the physician or the physician's delegate);
 - (II) follow policies the physician, medical and healthcare practice, or facility has in place regarding COVID-19 screening and testing and/or screening patients;
 - (III) that, before any encounter, patients must be screened for potential symptoms of COVID-19 or verified previously screened within last 20 days; and
 - (IV) that prior to care involving a medical procedure or surgery on the mucous membranes, including the respiratory tract, with a high risk of aerosol transmission, the minimum safety equipment used by a physician or physician's delegate should include N95 masks, or an equivalent protection from aerosolized particles, and face shields.
- (ii) All physicians providing patient care or engaging in an in-person patient encounter in medical and healthcare practices, offices, and facilities, other than hospitals as defined under Chapter 241 of the Texas Health & Safety Code, shall post a COVID-19 Minimum Standards of Safe Practice Notice (COVID-19 Notice), delineating the minimum standards of safe practice described in this subsection, in each public area and treatment room or area of the office, practice, or facility.

Texas ENT is requiring patients to arrive with a face covering for any appointments in office, be subjected to a temperature screen and survey of COVID-19 questions, and maintain 6 feet apart, as feasible, while in the office. Texas ENT is also pre-screening over the phone, practicing safe distancing in the clinic, and sanitizing and disinfecting the office, exam rooms, equipment after use, while wearing proper PPE.