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<http://health.usf.edu/medicine/dermatology/faculty/education.html>

Dear USF Dermatology Patient/Caregiver,

You are receiving this letter because you or your child has been identified as someone who is being treated with an agent that modulates your immune system. These medications include, but are not limited to methotrexate, cyclosporine, CellCept (mycophenolate mofetil), Xeljanz (tofacitinib), Enbrel (etanercept), Humira (adalimumab), Stelara (ustekinumab), Remicade (infliximab).

As you are aware, COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2), has been making headlines for the last several weeks. We understand that this is concerning to many of our patients, especially those who are taking medications that affect the immune system. At this time, we do not know if the medication that you are receiving has any associated risk with coronavirus infection.

Whether or not you should take your medication as scheduled depends on your individual situation. In general, if you are a younger adult or child, otherwise healthy, and have not tested positive for coronavirus or exhibited symptoms worrisome for coronavirus, it is probably okay to continue your biologic medication. Out of an abundance of caution, older adults and individuals with chronic medical conditions should consider discussing their specific risks/benefits with their provider. Please do have a discussion with your dermatologist first before making any decision to stop. However, patients who tested positive for coronavirus or are suspected to have coronavirus should postpone therapy until after recovery.

If more widespread transmission appears locally, you should also reach out to your physician as this may affect the above recommendations.

We strongly recommend that you practice the following habits to reduce the risk of respiratory virus infections, including COVID-19:

1. Frequent handwashing for 20 seconds. This includes when you first get home, after using the bathroom, before you eat, and frequently throughout the day. If handwashing isn't possible, use a hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol.
2. Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands and in public.
3. Avoid sick people.
4. Don't share drinks or food with other people.
5. Stay home if you are sick.
6. Clean commonly touched objects and surfaces. This includes door knobs, tables, kitchen counters, computer keyboards, telephones (land and cellular) and light switches.
7. Avoid all non-essential travel, especially to high risk areas.
8. Avoid crowds or functions/places that bring together people from many different regions.
9. If you are scheduled for a dermatology appointment and are concerned that you may have been exposed to or have COVID-19, or wish to cancel to help minimize the risk of exposure for you or your child, call ahead and cancel your appointment or schedule a telehealth visit. Please bear in mind that rescheduling of visits may take some time as we navigate this public health situation.

For the most up to date information, visit the CDC website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html>) or the WHO website (<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>)

If you have additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out for a telehealth visit at 813-974-0124

Sincerely,

Your Dermatology Team at the University of South Florida-