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Nilesh Kalyanaraman, M.D., F.A.C.P.
Health Officer

May 21, 2020

Dear Primary Care Providers,

The Anne Arundel County Department of Health is providing you with the following alert for the COVID-19 public health emergency. **COVID-19 has affected over 3,000 Anne Arundel County residents since early March.** Our response to this has been large scale interventions including a stay-at-home order, social distancing, mask usage and hand hygiene. At the same time, we have been ramping up our public health and health care responses to the pandemic.

Our targeted interventions include testing, contact tracing, isolation and quarantine, and case management. More testing is being done each day throughout the county. The Health Department has contact traced every single person who has tested positive in the county, over 3,000 and growing. We provide isolation and quarantine guidance and case management support to everyone requiring this intervention.

Most practices are offering testing and care for people with symptoms suggestive of COVID-19. As we work toward recovery, aggressive testing throughout the county will be a key part of our success.

To make this testing widely available, we need you to:

- Educate your patients on the full range of symptoms of COVID-19 (Table 1)
- Encourage your patients to get tested for COVID-19 within 48 hours of symptom onset
- Offer tests to asymptomatic individuals
- Set up streamlined testing capacity for your patients
- Provide targeted outreach to at-risk individuals (Table 2)

Thank you for the critical role you play in caring for the residents of Anne Arundel County and managing the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "N. Kalyanaraman".

Nilesh Kalyanaraman, M.D., F.A.C.P.
Health Officer

Please contact the Deputy Health Officer of Public Health, Tonii Gedin with questions or concerns at hdgedi20@aacounty.org

Table 1.

COVID-19 Symptoms	
Adults and Children	Children
<p>People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness.</p> <p>Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cough • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing • Fever • Chills • Muscle pain • Sore throat • New loss of taste or smell <p>This list is not all possible symptoms. Other less common symptoms have been reported, including gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.</p>	<p>Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) is a condition where different body parts can become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs. We do not yet know what causes MIS-C. However, we know that many children with MIS-C had the virus that causes COVID-19, or had been around someone with COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever • Abdominal pain • Vomiting • Diarrhea • Neck pain • Rash • Bloodshot eyes • Feeling extra tired <p>Be aware that not all children will have all the same symptoms.</p>

Source: [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Table 2.

At Risk Populations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People older than 60 • African Americans • Hispanics • People with Chronic Disease • People who are Immunocompromised • Women Pregnant or Breastfeeding • People Experiencing Homelessness • People with Disabilities

Source: [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)