

# What is COVID-19 Screening Fatigue?

Dialysis providers have reported patients experiencing COVID-19 Screening fatigue when they enter the dialysis center. This type of fatigue is a persistent threat to the effectiveness of infection prevention efforts. As infection rates continue to rise, it is important that everyone recognize their responsibility to reduce the spread of COVID-19. You along with your healthcare team can overcome COVID-19 screening fatigue and take steps to further protect yourself and your loved ones.

## What is the goal of COVID-19 Screening?

The goal of the COVID-19 screening is to identify potential exposure to COVID-19 and determine if you need to be treated in a COVID-19 isolation clinic or on a COVID-19 shift.

## Why might someone answer screening questions incorrectly?

- Questions are not asked in a language they understand.
- People are afraid to go to a COVID-19 isolation clinic because they don't have symptoms and fear that they might get sick.
- People are afraid that changes to treatment location or times may cause personal hardships.
- They are experiencing "COVID-19 Screening Fatigue".

## How are clinics improving their COVID-19 Screening process?

Clinics revised their screening to ask about potential patient exposure to COVID-19 at home or at work. Although questions about home and work may seem intrusive, this information is very helpful for clinic staff to protect patients and themselves. Facility staff will try to address any fears you might have about going to an isolation clinic.

## What can I do?

As dialysis providers work to improve their screening questions, you can do your part by:

- Protect yourself and others: Please understand that improper use of precautions by yourself and those around you can impact the lives of others.
  - Be curious: Ask about the process and the cleaning practices of the COVID-19 isolation clinic.
  - Be honest: Plan in advance how to get treatment if you are exposed and need to go.
  - Make a plan: For how to get treatment if you are exposed and need to go to a COVID-19 isolation clinic.
- Below are some frequently asked questions you may want to discuss with your provider. Knowing more about the process may alleviate your fears.



*COVID-19 Screening Fatigue is a reaction that can occur when questions are asked repeatedly over a long period of time. When this happens, the screening questions lose their value as patients answer without thinking the questions through.*

## FAQ's

### Q: What is a COVID-19 isolation clinic?

A: It is a clinic where a patient exposed to COVID-19 and are waiting for test results or have been diagnosed as positive for COVID-19 can receive their dialysis.

### Q: How do I know if the COVID-19 isolation clinics are safe for me to dialyze in?

A: Many patients say it is just like your regular clinic, but patients sit farther apart & staff wear more PPE. Your healthcare team can help you understand the infection control and cleaning practices at the COVID-19 isolation clinic.

### Q: How do I get to a COVID-19 isolation clinic?

A: Your healthcare team is prepared to arrange transportation and address any fears you may have about going to a COVID-19 isolation clinic.

### Q: Travel to a COVID-19 isolation clinic is a hardship for me, do I have other options?

A: Talk with your healthcare team about any hardships you may have. You may want to ask if there are alternative appointment times available that would be better for you and your family.

### Q: Will I need a doctor's note for transportation when I get better?

A: Some transportation companies are asking for a doctor's note stating you no longer have COVID-19 once you have recovered. Ask your provider about this to ensure you will not have any issues or miss any treatments.

Comagine Health ESRD Network 16 & 18 developed this in collaboration with Health Services Advisory Group Network 7, 17, and 15.