

# Update

marin community clinics



## **A Message from Marin Community Clinics' CEO**

July 17, 2020

Dear Marin Community Clinics Family,

Many of you are aware that the number of COVID-19 cases in Marin County has continued to climb in recent weeks. As I have discussed in prior communications, the people that we serve here at Marin Community Clinics are particularly hard-hit by this pandemic, as many of them are essential workers who often live in crowded conditions where self-isolating is virtually impossible. As our patients are disproportionately impacted by the spread of this disease, we continue to link them with resources and supportive services. This includes relief payments (distributed by the Multicultural Center of Marin and made possible by Marin Community Foundation and the County of Marin) for people who test positive so that they can remain at home while recovering.

In collaboration with County of Marin Health & Human Services and MarinHealth, we have expanded testing at Marin Community Clinics and at Canal Alliance to serve more members of the community. Drop-in testing is now being conducted at Canal Alliance in San Rafael twice weekly, our San Rafael Campus Clinic weekly, and on alternating Saturdays at our San Rafael Campus and Novato Clinics. Getting the test results back in a timely manner has been challenging, with wait times of an average 9 days in recent weeks due to a nationwide backlog. We are hopeful that turnaround time improves in the coming weeks.

Individuals who are tested and do not have a medical home or health insurance are encouraged to establish care at Marin Community Clinics. We provide care regardless of a person's ability to pay. Whenever eligible, our enrollment team will assist them with obtaining health insurance including Medi-Cal.

I've been encouraging our team to look for silver linings while facing the challenges of the pandemic and the social inequities that plague our country. I have a silver lining to share with you today - all of our dental clinics are back in operation! Two had been closed since March, and they are now up and running again. Not all dental procedures are available yet, as we are still putting engineering controls in place to keep patients and staff safe from possible coronavirus transmission. While we continued providing emergency dental care throughout the pandemic, we are happy to bring back preventive oral health services to our patients. I am deeply grateful to Marin Community Clinics' dental team for coming together and learning new ways of delivering care to keep everyone safe!

I thank you for staying connected to Marin Community Clinics and taking the time to read these updates. Our team is so grateful for the support that we are receiving from our community – it keeps us going when the days are long and difficult!

**We are all in this together.**

Mitesh Popat, MD, MPH  
Chief Executive Officer

p.s. If you have not yet signed up for ongoing COVID-19 updates from the County of Marin Public Health Department, I encourage you to do so. Visit <https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/> for updated information.