

December 23, 2024

To our valued patients and families:

We want to keep you and other Northwest Kidney Centers patients safe from COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses. We closely watch the levels of respiratory viruses circulating in the community and follow recommendations from our local and national health experts on how to help stop the spread of these viruses.

Based on the latest advice from the Washington Department of Health and Public Health – Seattle & King County, and current virus levels, we are **requiring everyone to wear masks in our NKC clinics, starting December 23, 2024.**

Here's what this means for you:

- Masks are required in NKC clinics for patients and visitors starting December 23.
- All clinic staff must wear masks in patient care areas.

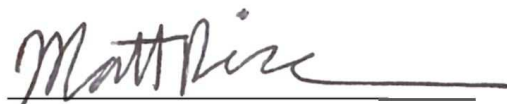
Having kidney disease puts you at high risk of developing severe medical conditions from COVID-19 and other illnesses that affect your breathing, such as pneumonia, RSV and the flu. Getting vaccinated helps stop the spread of these viruses. Now is a good time to check with your medical provider to make sure you're up-to-date on these and any other recommended vaccines.

If you're not yet vaccinated against COVID-19, we strongly encourage you to get the vaccine as soon as possible. You can find options online through the free Washington Vaccine Locator (vaccinelocator.doh.wa.gov). You can also let your care team know if you need help.

Thank you for letting Northwest Kidney Centers take care of you and your loved ones.



Heather Thomasson, RN
Chief Nursing Officer



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Chief Medical Officer



Taylor Miller
Infection Prevention Program Manager