Dialysis and COVID-19

COVID-19 Vaccinations at Dialysis Facilities
The Biden Administration has announced a new partnership with dialysis facilities to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to dialysis patients. Through this partnership, the Administration will provide vaccines directly to dialysis facilities, so patients are able to get vaccinated at their facility.

Dialysis Facility Safety
Taking precautions to stay safe from COVID-19 has been tough for everyone, but for people who are on dialysis, it can be even harder. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has collected information and resources to help patients with chronic kidney disease manage their dialysis while staying safe from COVID-19.

Patients on dialysis should not delay treatments because of fears of COVID-19. Dialysis facilities have taken steps to stay safe from COVID-19, but patients should also learn how to manage their exposure. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has developed a fact sheet with helpful information for patients going to dialysis facilities for treatment. Key takeaways include:

- Expect changes to dialysis facility procedures and be sure to follow instructions from facility staff
- Wear a face covering and wash hands frequently
- Monitor for any symptoms of COVID-19, including fever, new cough, sore throat, tiredness, shortness of breath, and muscle aches
- Don’t be afraid to ask questions about how the facility is preparing for COVID-19

The CDC also maintains a webpage with helpful information on dialysis safety, including a video on how to speak to facility staff.

Other Dialysis Options
If a dialysis facility has temporarily closed due to COVID-19 exposure, patients can use the CMS Medicare.gov website to locate other nearby facilities. Medicare.gov also includes ratings for facilities and information about services they offer.

Another option for patients who are concerned about visiting a dialysis facility is home dialysis. The National Institutes of Health offers information to help you choose between in-center and home dialysis. Be sure to talk to your doctor for more information before making any changes to your treatment plan.