



Pandemic Preparedness: Most Important Things to Know

Dialysis Patients:

- Know the plan at your dialysis clinic. Ask questions and get answers for any concerns or unclear issues.
- Know your responsibilities at home (transportation, diet and medication supplies, etc).
- Have a 2-week supply of medications, food, water (see pandemic patient checklist at www.kcercoalition.com). Realize that dialysis providers can control some things but not all, depending on the availability of local community resources.
- Know where to get reliable information: dialysis clinic and your local county department of health, health related websites. Keep a list of important phone numbers.
- Practice good hygiene habits, including hand-washing and coughing into your arm.
- Ask someone from outside your home to check on you in case of an emergency.

Dialysis Providers:

- Have a plan and communicate it effectively and often. Communicate relevant issues to patients. The CMS Conditions for Coverage require that the dialysis facility have a plan for emergencies – including pandemics. The Conditions also require the dialysis facility provide patient education on all types of emergencies; including: what to do, where to go, and who to call.
- Educate staff about their personal responsibility to take care of themselves and their loved ones.
- Build a communication system to provide the latest, reliable information.
- Actively plan with local health department, emergency management, and other authorities.
- Build staff comfort and confidence in coming to work. Provide cross-training for tasks that may be able to be done by multiple people.
- Practice good hygiene habits, and use universal infection control precautions.
- Know where to get information: the local ESRD Network, company and industry contacts, KCER (www.kcercoalition.com) and other organizations such as the American Association of Kidney Patients (www.aakp.org) or the National Kidney Foundation (www.kidney.org) .
- The toll-free Emergency Hotline for patients and dialysis providers is 888-33-KIDNEY (888-335-4363).