

**Gastroenterology Consultants of Long Island**  
**Covid Update**

Dear GCLI patients, friends, and families,

The past few months have been difficult for all of us and thankfully the worst is over. During the pandemic, GCLI has done it's best to stay available for urgent office visits, televisits and emergency phone calls. On a personal note, both Dr. Storch and Costable helped the community by volunteering on the medical wards to help with the covid infected patients during the worst of the surge.

Thankfully, we are ready to reopen our office and are preparing to resume endoscopic procedures. This letter is to make you aware of the efforts we are making to keep our patients safe in the world of our "new normal."

Many patients need elective procedures and are asking when they can be done. The answer is that we will start as soon as Governor Cuomo gives us the green light - we are hoping this will be in the next few weeks but will follow state guidelines as they materialize.

The second question we have been asked is in regards to the safety of GI procedures. The ASGE (American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy) has deemed endoscopy to be safe. The position paper from the ASGE with answers to commonly asked questions is posted on our website for your perusal. We will not be performing procedures on patients with known active Coronavirus infection in our office.

At GCLI we always use the best possible cleaning equipment and staff to reprocess our endoscopes. During our two month hiatus, we have taken the opportunity to have all of our equipment thoroughly checked and tested to make sure we are ready to reopen safely when the time arrives. Our endoscopy staff has received additional training in PPE, room cleaning, and disinfection between procedures to ensure a clean environment. .

For office visits we will taking the following measures to keep you safe:

1. Pre-screening all patients over the phone for sign of acute illness. Any patient with known Covid infection or symptoms suggestive of active Covid infection will not be seen in the office.
2. Temperature measurements for all staff members daily
3. Temperature measurements for all patients and chaperones
4. Social distancing in the waiting room
5. Masks will be worn by all GCLI physicians and staff
6. Masks will be worn by all patients and chaperones
7. Minimal occupancy will be maintained in the waiting room
8. Rapid transfer of patients into private exam rooms will be advocated when possible

Although we think these measures will follow current guidelines, upon request patients can call from the car and be brought up directly into the exam room through a private entrance when their room is available.

We value your choice of GCLI for your gastrointestinal needs and will do our best to keep you safe and healthy. If you have any non medical questions, comments or concerns before or after your visit please email us at [frontdesk@bestgidoc.com](mailto:frontdesk@bestgidoc.com)

Truly,

Drs. John Costable and Ian Storch.