



## Molly S. Judge DPM, FACFAS\*

**Board Certified; Reconstructive Rear Foot & Ankle Surgery**

**Official Foot and Ankle Physician for The Marathon LPGA**

Corona Virus Patient Update North West Ohio Foot and Ankle Institute LLC March 22, 2020

Given the most recent changes in regulations in personal protection against the coronavirus our communications to patients must be updated. Today, the Ohio State Government Policy states that physician office VISits remain essential to public health and well-being and have not been banned. The following strategy is strongly suggested for in-office visits.

We reserve the right to decline an in-office visit if the patient reports fever or other symptoms of the flu or reports having been in contact with those exposed to or have the flu.

1. New patient visits for the lower extremity (AKA leg ankle foot or toes) can be pursued upon request. Most importantly visits for significant pain, painful deformity, infection (skin, soft tissue or bone), ulceration, swelling or dysfunction will be allowed unless otherwise advised by our state government.
2. ALL non-urgent appointments for the elderly, those with medical conditions that put them at high risk for the virus and "routine care" office visits have been tentatively rescheduled late into the month of April. These patients are encouraged to monitor closely for early evidence of redness, swelling, tenderness skin breakdown or sores at risk for infection. Report of these conditions by phone Will allow physicians and staff to triage the condition and determine if an in-office visit is appropriate.
3. Elective office visits, non-emergent, non-urgent visits remain at your discretion and are discouraged at this time for the elderly and those with comorbidities such as diabetes, cancer, chronic systemic disease among others. We are currently exploring the possibility of "virtual visits" by way of computer using a "FaceTme" type technology. More information on that is pending
4. If you feel sick or have symptoms of chronic dry cough, fever, chills, nausea, vomiting, or other flu symptoms you are advised to self-quarantine. Instructions on how to do this can be found at [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).
5. If you have general respiratory symptoms such as on-going fever, shortness of breath or pressure in the chest you should call 911 if this is emergent Alternatively, dial your nearest emergency room in advance to inform them that you will be presenting for these symptoms. The emergency room staff Will advise you on where to enter the facility and what information you need to bring with you.
6. Your safety is our priority. Your instincts are our best guide. If you are ill or even just anxious about coming in for an appointment by all means postpone until a time when you feel more at ease. We will be here for you whenever you are in need

In the interim visit [Mollyjudge.com](http://Mollyjudge.com) for more information and literature on many conditions affecting the leg, foot and ankle. Write your questions down and bring them to your next Office visit. We will review them one by one to ensure you are comfortable with detailed information in response to your questions and concerns. Until we see you again stay warm and well.

Warmest regards,

Molly Judge, DPM North West Ohio Foot and Ankle Institute, LLC

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