April \*\*\*, 2020

Dear \*\*\*,

We are reaching out to provide important information regarding the care of your child. Your child may be currently taking medication for a skin disease. With the current COVID-19 infection risk, you may have questions regarding the medication.

As you may know, COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus causing flu-like disease. In the setting of the current pandemic, many patients, parents and caregivers are unsure about whether they should continue giving systemic medications. Systemic medications can be either pills taken by mouth or injections. Examples of injections used to treat skin disease are biologics and methotrexate.

The following paragraphs will discuss the risks and benefits involved with systemic medications during these uncertain times. It is our hope that this letter provides helpful information for you to make the best decision for your child’s overall health.

Please contact us if:

1. You would like to discuss how this information relates to your child’s individual situation.
2. You, a household member, or your child are diagnosed with COVID-19 and need specific instructions regarding your child’s medicines.

**REMEMBER: If you, a household member or your child have fever, cough, or difficulty breathing that may be related to COVID-19, please contact your primary care doctor’s office. They will provide further recommendations and coordination of care.**

Sincerely,

\*\*\* from Institution \*\*\*

**Coronavirus and Your Oral or Injectable Systemic Medication**

**What is my child’s risk of becoming sick from the coronavirus?**

At this time, there is still a lot we don’t know about COVID-19 infection. The effect of the systemic medication your child is taking on their risk of developing a serious illness due to a coronavirus infection is unknown. We do know that those who are at highest risk of becoming ill are older adults (over age 60) and people with chronic illnesses such as heart disease, diabetes, lung disease, cancer, and immunosuppressive conditions. Fortunately, children seem to do better than adults when infected with coronavirus, but all precautions should be taken for your child and everyone in your household.

For more information about risk factors for serious illness from the coronavirus, refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>

**Should my child take the oral systemic or injectable medication as scheduled?**

Whether or not your child should take their medication as scheduled depends on their individual situation. You need to consider the condition for which the medicine is being used, the likelihood of infection, and the likelihood of severe health consequences of an infection. Any concerns you have should be discussed with your pediatric dermatologist before you make a decision about stopping therapy.

In general, if your child is otherwise healthy and is not at high risk of having been exposed to coronavirus, it is probably okay to continue the medication as scheduled. Social distancing, staying home and good hand hygiene will help minimize risk.

Out of an abundance of caution, you may want to discuss with your pediatric dermatologist stopping or lowering the medication during this time period if:

1. Your child has severe chronic medical conditions in addition to the skin condition. For example, if they also have heart disease, diabetes, lung disease, cancer, immunosuppressive condition
2. Your child has a higher risk of exposure to the coronavirus

Please discuss any changes to your child’s treatment with their pediatric dermatologist.

**What if my child develops symptoms concerning for a coronavirus infection?**

If you think your child may have been exposed to the coronavirus and develops fevers, chills, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, or other concerning symptoms, call your primary doctor immediately. Your child should stop their oral or injectable medication and inform the dermatology office. Please note that even before the current pandemic, we would recommend stopping oral or injectable medications if your child develops symptoms of severe infection and restarting the medicines at a later date after the infection clears. Because so little is known about COVID-19, we may recommend delaying restarting a medicine for a least 4 to 6 weeks after complete resolution of symptoms, depending on a number of factors related to your child’s healthy, skin condition, and specific medicine. **Please reach out to your child’s pediatric dermatologist if they are diagnosed with COVID or a severe infection to discuss what to do about their skin medication.**

**What can I do to protect myself and my child from becoming sick from the coronavirus?**

Please refer to the CDC website for information on preventing illness from the coronavirus:  <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html>

Please take all precautions such as limiting close contact with others, avoiding crowds and group activities, and avoiding cruise travel and non-essential air travel. Please refer to following CDC webpage for more detailed information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>

Please follow all recommendations provided by the CDC on how to prevent the spread of coronavirus if you or your child is sick: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/steps-when-sick.html>.