

Dear Buckingham Center Friends *and* Families:

Everyone here at the Buckingham Center for Facial Plastic Surgery first and foremost is hoping that all of our patients are staying safe and healthy. The Covid-19 virus has thrown all of our lives into turmoil to varying degrees. We are all in this together, so let's all be sure that we are not only looking out for ourselves but also for all of our neighbors.

Our entire staff is still committed to taking care of our patients. Everyone you know and love here at Buckingham Center is still available to take your calls and emails. We are aware that other practices have had to close their doors temporarily, but we are still open and able to take care of those patients in need either in-person if required, or more likely by video. We are also seeing new patients via video consultation starting March 31st. This includes anyone interested in a cosmetic consultation.

In order to prevent the spread of the virus and keep everyone safe, we are only seeing patients in the office who truly need to be seen in-person. We are seeing those patients with limited staff interaction and making sure that no two patients are in the office at one time. Patients will be verbally screened for symptoms prior to being allowed in the office. The areas involved in patient care will be sterilized between patients.

Understand that Governor Abbott and the Texas Medical Board have strictly forbidden any elective surgery or any cosmetic office procedures that would put patients at risk or risk unnecessary use of masks and gloves. We certainly agree wholeheartedly with the Governor's actions. This order is currently in place until April 21st, however, it may be extended as needed. Let's hope the risk will be mitigated by then. The only patients we will be performing surgery on in this time of crisis are patients with skin cancers that risk metastasis if left untreated or risk significant additional morbidity to the patient if delayed in accordance with recommended guidelines. We will be relying on our Mohs surgeons to determine whether excision is warranted and plan reconstruction if so. Of course, we will also be handling any acute trauma, infections, etc.

Please stay safe and be sure to stay healthy both physically and mentally. Please know that our social media will be utilized for posting helpful information as it becomes available to us. We would love to see you over the airwaves and hopefully in-person soon. This too will pass.

Sincerely,

Edward D. Buckingham, M.D. *and* Staff

