Pharmacists Can Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19

Prepare the Pharmacy
- Provide supplies – tissues, hand sanitizer - in waiting and common areas
- Place chairs in waiting areas 3-6 feet apart, when possible
- Use barriers (like screens), if possible

Educate Patients about COVID-19
- Symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath; Emphasize hand hygiene and cough etiquette; Hang educational signs in waiting areas
- There are no FDA approved drugs for the treatment of COVID-19; Studies are ongoing

Enhance Prescription Delivery Services
- Offer delivery services or curbside medication pick-up, especially to high-risk patients
- If prescription delivery services not available, encourage drive-through pick-up services
- Enforce social distancing in pick-up areas

Separate Sick Patients
- Provide symptomatic patients with tissues or facemasks to cover mouth and nose
- Establish a process for reducing or eliminating the amount of time high-risk patients wait in the pharmacy

Quickly Triage Sick Patients
- Instruct high-risk symptomatic patients to contact their healthcare provider and provide them with additional information
- Instruct low-risk symptomatic patients to stay home and provide them with additional information

Stay Home When Sick
- Anyone who develops respiratory symptoms should not report to work
- Follow CDC guidance on monitoring and work restrictions for healthcare personal potentially exposed to COVID-19

Implement Infection Prevention Procedures
- Regularly clean counters, waiting areas, and other spaces where public interaction occurs; Clean at least every hour or after every 10 patients, whichever is more frequent
- Wash hands with soap and water frequently and for at least 20 seconds

Stay Informed
- This is an evolving situation so be sure to check the VDH COVID-19 website and the CDC COVID-19 website frequently for updates and new guidance
- Consider becoming a Medical Reserve Corps Volunteer

Last Updated 3/24/2020