



Information about our Pediatric Allergy and Immunology Practice:

Dear Parent,

We would like to welcome you to our practice here at New York-Presbyterian. The information provided is intended to clarify how our office and practice functions so that we can make your interaction with us helpful and efficient. If there are further questions, please do not hesitate to ask. We look forward to providing your family with the best and most compassionate care.

Sincerely,

The Division of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology

Location:

- 505 East 70th Street New York, NY 10021 -- between York Avenue and the East River.
- Our offices are on the 3rd Floor of the Helmsley Medical Tower.
- Phone: 646-WMC-KIDS or Direct (646-962-3410) and Fax (646-962-0246)

Office Hours:

- Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- In the event of an emergency after 5:00 p.m., or on weekends, call 646-962-3410 and ask the operator to page the Pulmonary physician on call. If you do not receive a return phone call within 15 minutes, please call the service again to have the doctor on call paged.

Insurance Coverage:

- We accept most major insurance plans. (please contact our office for further information)
- A referral may be required from your child's pediatrician (any questions regarding pre-authorization of service, we ask that you contact your insurance company and/or primary care physician)

Appointments:

- Please arrive by your check-in time in order to process your co-pay and complete or correct any registration information.
- Bring your insurance cards at the time of your child's visit. Also have the name, address and phone number of your pharmacy if you have not completed your pharmacy intake form.
- You may view your physicians profile at the practice webpage https://weillcornell.org/ped_allergy. All intake forms for your visit can be downloaded from the practice webpages.
- We will contact you to confirm the appointment 48 - 72 hours prior to your visit. You may also confirm the appointment by calling the office at 646-962-3410 or emailing pedspulmonarytele@med.cornell.edu. All completed questionnaires must be received by the office no later than 72 hours prior to the appointment. Please email them to pedspulmonarytele@med.cornell.edu or fax to 646-962-0246.
- If you are seeing the physician for a second opinion consultation, all previous medical records, and test results are required for review. Please forward to the office no later than 72 hours prior to the appointment.
- At least one week prior to your visit, please review the list of medications that should be avoided prior to your appointment. Some medications may affect results of the allergy testing which may be performed at your visit.
- Please allocate adequate time for your appointment. Depending on complexity and testing, the appointment may take up to two hours.

Weill Cornell Connect/My Chart (our patient portal):

- Portions of your child's medical record including blood results, test results, imaging results, vital signs, height and weight are available to you online via Weill Cornell Connect. You may also request prescription refills using Weill Cornell Connect.
- Weill Cornell Connect is one of our physicians' primary way of maintaining communicating with families and patients between appointments.
- To sign up for Weill Cornell Connect, you must obtain an activation code **in person** from the front desk after your visit. You will **not** be able to sign up for Weill Cornell Connect without this activation code and it must be received in person.
- To obtain the activation code, provide last 4 digits of **parent's social security # (if child is 10 years and younger)** and provide **BOTH parent's and child's social security # (if child is 11 years and older)** to obtain an activation code from our front desk **in person** after your appointment
- After you obtain the activation code, go to <https://mychart.med.cornell.edu/mychart/> to activate the account on a computer or smart phone (the app is called MyChart).
- **Non-urgent messages** with questions or updates can be sent to your doctor through Weill Cornell Connect. You should anticipate a response from the doctor **within 48 hours**.

- Please note that Weill Cornell Connect is **NOT** the method you should use to contact your doctor in the case of an urgent or emergent matter. Weill Cornell Connect is not checked routinely by your doctor during evenings or weekends. In the case of an emergency, please call the office.

Medications to Avoid Prior to your Appointment:

The below medications may interfere with allergy testing. These should be avoided for 5 days prior to allergy evaluation, if possible:

Avoid antihistamines taken by mouth, which include:

- Diphenhydramine (Benadryl)
- Loratidine (Claritin)
- Cetirizine (Zyrtec)
- Fexofenadine (Allegra)
- Levocetirizine (Xyzal)
- Desloratidine (Clarinex)
- Hydroxyzine (Atarax)
- Ranitidine (Zantac)
- Famotidine (Pepcid)
- Cyproheptadine (Periactin) ** avoid 9 days prior if possible

Avoid antihistamine nasal sprays

- Azelastine (Astelin, Astepro)
- Olopatadine (Patanase)

Avoid antihistamine eye drops, which include:

- Olopatadine (Patanol, Pataday, Pazeo)
- Ketotifen (Zaditor, Alaway)
- Azelastine (Optivar)

The below medications do not interfere with allergy testing, and do not need to be avoided prior to the appointment:

Continue all Inhaled asthma medications, for example: albuterol, Pulmicort, Qvar, Symbicort

Continue PPIs, for example: omeprazole (Prilosec), lansoprazole (Prevacid), esomeprazole (Nexium)

Continue Montelukast (Singulair)

Continue topical steroids, for example: hydrocortisone, triamcinolone

Continue intranasal steroids, for example: Nasonex, Nasocort, Flonase, Rhinocort

The Day of the Visit:

- They will have their height, weight and other vitals taken and then you and your child will proceed to the exam room. (If you prefer to wait in the reception area because it's best for your child, please let our medical assistant know).
- Since we are an academic center, we believe that teaching is an important part of our mission. Thus, we have the opportunity to have pediatric fellows, as well as residents or medical students participate in your child's visit. After an initial contact with a fellow or resident, you and your child will meet the pediatric allergist attending physician and you will have ample time to have all your questions addressed. Please understand that all decisions about your child's care will be made by the attending physician .

Phone Calls:

- All phone calls will be returned within 24 hours by one of our physicians or our nurse. Return phone calls will be made at the end of the day as we are generally either seeing patients or performing procedures during the day. If you feel this is an urgent matter, please let our office staff know so that we can return your phone call earlier.
- Please provide us with both a home number and a cellular telephone number to assure that we can reach you when making that return phone call.

Results:

- Your physician will give you an estimate of when these results should be completed.
- **Call us at 646-962-3410 for your child's results.** We will be happy to discuss your child's results and appreciate your attention regarding these matters.

Prescription Refills:

- Please call 646-962-3410 during regular office hours to refill any of your children's prescriptions.
- We are now also utilizing "e-Prescribing" for faster and more accurate refills.
- Please provide us with your preferred pharmacy: name, address and phone number by completing the Pharmacy Intake Form.
- Please call for refills when you have a minimum of a 7 day supply so you do not run out of medication.
- It is our policy that if your child has not been seen in over 6 months, that we may accommodate your child with a refill for one month but may ask for you to schedule a visit for any subsequent refills. We feel this is the safest and most appropriate action.

