Survey: Americans Delaying Needed Healthcare Due to COVID-19

Experts say the risk of infection is extremely low in medical facilities and avoiding them can have dire consequences

Orlando Health Heart & Vascular Institute

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NEWS PACKAGE

SUGGESTED TEASE	A NEW SURVEY FINDS COVID-19 FEARS ARE KEEPING MANY AMERICANS FROM GETTING THE MEDICAL CARE THEY NEED. COMING UP, WHY THE BENEFITS OF SEEING YOUR DOCTOR FAR OUTWEIGH THE RISKS.
ANCHOR LEAD	AT A TIME WHEN EVERY TRIP OUT OF THE HOUSE AND EVERY PERSON WE COME IN CONTACT WITH POSES A POTENTIAL THREAT OF CONTRACTING COVID-19, IT CAN BE DIFFICULT TO WEIGH THE RISKS AND BENEFITS OF VENTURING OUT. BUT A NEW SURVEY FINDS AMERICANS ARE PUTTING OFF CRITICAL HEALTH CARE DURING THE PANDEMIC, EVEN THOUGH EXPERTS SAY MEDICAL FACILITIES ARE SOME OF THE SAFEST PUBLIC SPACES. BARB CONSGILIO HAS THE DETAILS.
(PACKAGE START)CG: Courtesy: Orlando Health Heart & Vascular Institute	(Nats - Sound) :02
:00 - :03 Shots of Will boating with family	WHEN WILL FONTAINE (FON-TAYNE) STARTED EXPERIENCING CHEST PAINS AND FATIGUE, HE KNEW HE SHOULD SEEK HELP, BUT WAS HESITANT TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH HIS DOCTOR. :07
CG: Will Fontaine Had heart bypass surgery	"Unfortunately, COVID was rampant." :04
Shots of Will on boat	LUCKILY, WILL DID GO IN FOR A HEART CATHETERIZATION, WHICH REVEALED BLOCKAGES THAT COULD HAVE LED TO A HEART ATTACK IF LEFT UNTREATED. IT'S CARE LIKE THIS THAT TOO MANY PEOPLE
Shots of Dr. Garcia and team	HAVE FORGONE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. ¹ :10
	"There is more risk of you not paying attention to those chronic conditions, or even acute conditions, and

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CG: Joel Garcia, MD
Orlando Health Heart & Vascular
Institute

Shot of hospital exterior (blur for graphic)

Graphic: Concerns when COVID rates are high 67% more concerned about in-person medical appointments Nearly 3 in 5 hesitant to seek emergency care

Dr. Garcia(CG'd earlier)

Shots of Garcia and team

Shots of operating room

CG: Steven Hoff, MD
Orlando Health Heart & Vascular
Institute

Shots of Will on boat

Shots of Will boating with grandson

Will Fontaine (CG'd earlier)

Shots of Will boating with grandson (PACKAGE END) ------

ANCHOR TAG

not coming to the hospital, than the benefit of staying home thinking you will not get exposed to COVID-19." :11

YET A NEW NATIONAL SURVEY BY THE ORLANDO HEALTH HEART AND VASCULAR INSTITUTE FINDS MANY AMERICANS ARE STILL WEARY OF MEDICAL FACILITIES, WITH SIXTY-SEVEN PERCENT CONCERNED ABOUT GOING TO IN-PERSON MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS AND NEARLY THREE IN FIVE EVEN HESITANT TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL FOR EMERGENCY CARE WHEN COVID RATES ARE HIGH. :16

"Individuals, even as we learn more about this, are allowing the symptoms to actually get to the point in which they need medical care that is now an emergency. That is very concerning to us." :12

DOCTORS AT THE ORLANDO HEALTH HEART AND VASCULAR INSTITUTE ARE WORKING TO EDUCATE PATIENTS ON THE EXTENSIVE SAFETY MEASURES IN PLACE TO MINIMIZE RISK AND TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO MAKE AND KEEP APPOINTMENTS.:08

"Given the adherence to wearing PPE and sanitizing and distancing, it probably is one of the safest environments that we have." :12

AFTER SUCCESSFUL TRIPLE BYPASS SURGERY, WILL FEELS BETTER THAN HE HAS IN YEARS, AND IS GRATEFUL HE RECEIVED TREATMENT WHEN HE DID. :06

(Nats of grandson "Throw it over there, Papa."):02

"It's so great to get back to playing with my grandson, fishing and doing the things that I enjoy doing." :06

AT THE ORLANDO HEALTH HEART AND VASCULAR INSTITUTE, THIS IS BARB CONSIGLIO REPORTING. :02

EXPERTS SAY TELEHEALTH HAS BECOME AN INVALUABLE TOOL DURING THIS PANDEMIC.

NOT ONLY DO VIRTUAL APPOINTMENTS ALLOW DOCTORS TO MAKE INITIAL CONTACT WITH PATIENTS, BUT THEY ALSO OFFER OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLAIN THE SAFETY PROTOCOLS IN PLACE AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO COME IN IF NEEDED, BUT, IN MANY CASES, THEY CAN ALSO BE USED IN FOLLOW UP CARE AND TO

LIMIT IN-PERSON VISITS.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Share it! Suggested tweet:

A new national survey by <u>@OrlandoHealth</u> finds many Americans are delaying needed healthcare during the pandemic, even though experts say the risk of contracting COVID-19 at a medical facility is very low. https://bit.ly/3b5GAGf

Suggested post:

A new national survey by the Orlando Health Heart & Vascular Institute finds many Americans are hesitant to seek medical care, even in the event of an emergency, when COVID-19 rates are high. Experts say medical facilities are among the safest public spaces that exist and that delaying care can have dire consequences. https://bit.ly/3b5GAGf

EXTRA BITES

Garcia says the pandemic has accelerated telehealth options: "We have been fortunate enough that telehealth has ramped up since the COVID era. We were not as good in telehealth as we are now based on the need that that created. So being able to actually reach out to the patient in that venue allows us to educate them better.":18

CG: Joel Garcia, MD
Orlando Health Heart & Vascular
Institute

Garcia says hospitals are not high-risk environments for COVID transmission:

"We do have data that shows that people are afraid to come to certain places where they think the COVID-19 exposure will be higher. Hospitals should not be those." :10

Garcia says patients are afraid to go to the hospital and their doctors' offices:

"Not only do we hear from our patients that there is a hesitancy to come and seek care in the hospital, also hesitancy to go see other physicians outside in the community." :11

Hoff says hospitals have increased existing safety protocols: "Given the adherence to wearing PPE and sanitizing and distancing, it probably is one of the safest environments that we have." :12

CG: Steven Hoff, MD Orlando Health Heart & Vascular Institute Hoff says the longer someone delays treatment, the worse the outcomes:

"I understand their hesitation. But there's no question, across diagnosis, whether those diagnoses have to do with heart artery blockages or valve problems or heart rhythm problems, the later in the disease process that we see people and can intervene, the worse their outcomes." :18

CG: Steven Hoff, MD Orlando Health Heart & Vascular Institute

Hoff says delaying care for a heart condition is dangerous: "Doesn't matter what your heart diagnosis is. If you have heart-related problems, delaying care is dangerous.":09

Will describes some of the safety protocols he experienced: "I felt very safe with the way that all the medical staff conducted their self related to keeping things clean and wearing a mask, social distancing, also testing me for COVID to make other patients safe and ensure that I wasn't infecting somebody else.":20

CG: Will Fontaine Had heart bypass surgery

Will says seeing protocols in action made him feel safe: "Once you experience it, and it only took me one time to experience it to see the precautions that they would take and every aspect, exceeding all CDC guidelines, to keep you safe.":16

Will says he felt safer in the hospital than anywhere else: "They took every precaution to keep me safe. I felt safer than anywhere I've traveled throughout this pandemic. And, please, get the help that you deserve before the complications become a serious health issue.":17

References

¹Delay or Avoidance of Medical Care Because of COVID-19–Related Concerns — United States, June 2020, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Sept. 11, 2020. Online: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6936a4.htm

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