

<p>CG: Joel Garcia, MD Orlando Health Heart & Vascular Institute</p> <p>Shot of hospital exterior (blur for graphic)</p> <p>Graphic: Concerns when COVID rates are high 67% more concerned about in-person medical appointments Nearly 3 in 5 hesitant to seek emergency care</p> <p>Dr. Garcia (CG'd earlier)</p> <p>Shots of Garcia and team</p> <p>Shots of operating room</p> <p>CG: Steven Hoff, MD Orlando Health Heart & Vascular Institute</p> <p>Shots of Will on boat</p> <p>Shots of Will boating with grandson</p> <p>Will Fontaine (CG'd earlier)</p> <p>Shots of Will boating with grandson (PACKAGE END) -----</p> <p>ANCHOR TAG</p>	<p><i>not coming to the hospital, than the benefit of staying home thinking you will not get exposed to COVID-19.” :11</i></p> <p>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</p> <p><i>“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</i></p> <p>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</p> <p><i>“Given the adherence to wearing PPE and sanitizing and distancing, it probably is one of the safest environments that we have.” :12</i></p> <p>AFTER SUCCESSFUL TRIPLE BYPASS SURGERY, WILL FEELS BETTER THAN HE HAS IN YEARS, AND IS GRATEFUL HE RECEIVED TREATMENT WHEN HE DID. :06</p> <p>(Nats of grandson “Throw it over there, Papa.”) :02</p> <p><i>“It’s so great to get back to playing with my grandson, fishing and doing the things that I enjoy doing.” :06</i></p> <p>AT THE ORLANDO HEALTH HEART AND VASCULAR INSTITUTE, THIS IS BARB CONSIGLIO REPORTING. :02</p> <hr/> <p>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</p>
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LIMIT IN-PERSON VISITS.

SOCIAL MEDIA

 **Share it! Suggested tweet:**

A new national survey by [@OrlandoHealth](#) 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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