Protocol Statement:

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso wishes to provide guidance for staff, students, faculty, and residents to transition safely back to clinic sites.

Scope and Distribution:

This protocol applies to all Texas Tech Physicians of El Paso (TTP EP) ambulatory clinics.

Procedure:

Patient care areas:

Any area inside the TTP EP Clinics buildings where patients/visitors enter or circulate. These include common or individual clinic hallways, waiting areas, exam or procedure rooms, vital signs stations and desks or offices where interactions with patients or visitors take place.

Mask wearing:

- **Patients** that screen positive at the front desk/entrance must wear face coverings or masks.
- **Providers and Staff** must wear a face mask: a) when with patients inside the exam or procedure rooms or in vital signs stations, OR b) if they had a close contact with a positive COVID-19 case within the prior 10 days, OR c) if they have any symptom suggestive of a respiratory infection.
- The use of masks in other situations is optional.

Distancing:

- Distancing is not required.
- Existent transparent barriers in counters will remain.

Screening:

- Employee/student with flu like symptoms, recent exposure or awaiting test results will complete a survey, notifying the COVID Response Team (CRT) and their supervisor.
- Patient and visitor screening will continue at individual clinics during the check-in process at the front desk/entrance.
- Patients will have access to all available entrances.

Screen positive patients at Clinic entrance or front desk:

- Designated accommodations to isolate and evaluate patients who screen positive in the clinic entrance/front desk will continue in each individual clinic. Those include waiting area, exam room, personnel and PPE (to include at minimum N-95 masks, eye protection and gloves).
Re-scheduling of these patients should be at the discretion of the Clinic and consider the need and type of encounter. Rescheduling should have the prior standing or immediate agreement of the Clinic Medical Director.

Visitors:
- Individual clinics will not supersede three (3) accompanying visitors per patient when considered needed by provider or patient.
- Adult supervision of minors is required at all times.

Virtual visits:
- Virtual visits will continue to be offered for those patients interested or requesting this visit type.
- Patients requesting in-person visits must be seen in person.

Surface dis-infecion:
- Environmental services and clinic staff continue to dis-infect surfaces with frequent patient contact twice a day.