(FACILITY INFORMATION)

(DATE)

(ETC)

Dear Dr. XXX,

In these trying times, we hope this letter finds you, your loved ones, and your practice staff healthy and safe. As a referrer to the (FACILITY NAME) Lung Cancer Screening Program, we thank you for trusting us to partner with you for the healthcare imaging needs of your patients.

As we begin to recover from the disruptions caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic, we are reaching out to update you about the status of lung cancer screening at our facilities. As you know, lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer death for both men and women. Although lung cancer screening is classified as an elective service, it is also time sensitive. *Early detection saves lives*.

A recent consensus paper acknowledges that postponement of lung cancer screening and follow up CT exams is appropriate during the COVID-19 pandemic (Mazzone P, et al JACR 2020; 17(7): 845-854). In practice, the risk of potential complications from COVID-19 infection must be balanced with the patient’s underlying health/welfare and lung cancer risk to individualize their examination delay.

Given the current trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic in our area, we have resumed scheduling outpatients for time sensitive exams. As part of our patient service recovery efforts, we encourage you to prioritize the return of those patients with a previous abnormal lung cancer screen result (Lung-RADS 3 or 4) for their recommended short term follow up exam, followed by those with a previous negative lung cancer screen result (Lung-RADS 1 or 2) who may be overdue for their annual exam.

On a positive note, for those patients required by Medicare to undergo a shared decision making (SDM) visit prior to their initial lung cancer screen (or those in whom you wish to engage in SDM prior to their annual screen), that service can now be provided as fully reimbursable telehealth visit for the duration of the pandemic (as defined by (CMS).

The times are unprecedented, and we want you to know that we are committed to the health and wellness of your patients. Some or all of the following measures may have been implemented to help keep your patients safe during their visit, and are a requirement for anyone entering our facilities:  thermal temperature scanning, practicing social distancing, masking, no extra people in waiting rooms, screening only in outpatient facilities, and/or other precautions as appropriate for patient safety.  If you have any questions or concerns about our facilities or our program, please feel free to contact me for more information.

Sincerely,

(TITLE/PROGRAM)

(PHONE)