



Pragnesh H. Patel, M.D., Jose R. Arias, Jr., M.D.,  
Andrew S. Bagg, M.D., Laila W. Alidina, M.D. Ph.D

# Allergy Asthma Specialists

Altamonte Springs (next to FL Hospital): 407-339-3002

Orlando/Dr. Phillips: 407-351-4328

Ocoee (inside Health Central): 407-296-1929

Clermont/Lost Lake area: 352-243-6767

Website: AllergyCFL.com

Welcoming to the practice

**Susan Culverhouse, M.D.**



Dr. Culverhouse received her MD degree, residency and fellowship training from the University of South Florida, Tampa. She has worked in Internal Medicine private practice and brings diverse experience in treating children and adults with allergy, asthma and immunology related disorders.

## Who is an Allergist/Immunologist?

**Dr. Pragnesh H. Patel:** An allergist/immunologist is an expert in diagnosing and treating complex allergic diseases including: asthma, chronic cough, hay fever, sinusitis, food/insect/drug/skin allergy and life threatening anaphylaxis. He or she can design a customized treatment plan to reduce your day to day struggle and improve your quality of life.

## I want to buy a hypo-allergic dog for my allergic children. Any recommendation?

**Dr. Jose R. Arias, Jr.:** There is no such thing as a hypo-allergic dog or a dog that would not cause allergies. All dogs shed the protein that causes allergies via their saliva, urine and sweat regardless of breed. The word hypo-allergenic is use to describe dogs that shed less but they can still cause allergies in allergic children and adults.

## How is food allergy diagnosed?

**Dr. Andrew Bagg:** Food allergy is common and increasing. Diagnosis involves a complete history and confirmation skin testing and or specific IgE blood test. False positive and negative can occur with either test. That is why an allergist/immunologist is the best trained professional to help diagnose and manage food allergies.

## What can I do to help control allergies in my home?

**Dr. Susan Culverhouse:** Dust mites, which are not visible to the naked eye, are the major source of indoor allergies. Encasing mattresses and pillows in impermeable dust mite covers is recommended. Removing the carpet and not having upholstered furniture also helps to control dust mites (leather, wood, metal or plastic is preferred). Pets are also not recommended, but if you have them, keep them out of the bed and bedroom if possible.