



## **COVID-19 Update**

We are open! We have always followed stringent safety and infection control protocols as directed by the American Dental Association (ADA), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

According to the most recent update from CDC, "To date in the United States, clusters of healthcare workers positive for COVID-19 have been identified in hospital settings and long term care facilities, but no clusters have yet been reported in dental settings or personnel."

**The following are a few guidelines we follow that not only meet current mandatory regulations but go above and beyond for the health of our staff and patients.**

- All team members undergo a health check and temperature is taken before each workday.
- Common areas such as the waiting room, restrooms, and break areas are disinfected multiple times throughout the day.
- All surfaces within our treatment rooms and countertops have been cleaned and disinfected thoroughly with medical-grade disinfectant before patients enter the room.
- Protective coverings on equipment and chairs are disposed of and replaced after each patient.
- Most dental tools and materials that come into direct patient contact are single use/disposable and never reused.
- Non-disposable items such as dental tools and instruments are cleaned and sterilized before use with hospital-grade sterilization equipment and protocols. All instruments undergo two sterilization processes.

- Sterilization equipment is monitored and tested on a regular basis with mechanical, chemical and spore testing.
- Water and water lines are continuously maintained and treated to eliminate any microbial growth.
- Aerosol and droplet travel is focused and limited by high volume evacuation units (HVE)
- Patient blankets and clinical gowns/coats are immediately laundered onsite after use.
- Treatment providers use only approved/certified personal protective equipment (PPE) required by OSHA to protect our patients and themselves.
- Treatment providers maintain continuing education, training and license to ensure the latest guidelines are implemented and followed.

**For your next visit during the COVID-19 pandemic, we ask the following of our patients:**

- No handshaking policy. Patients will be asked to sanitize or wash their hands.
- Patients will be asked pre-appointment COVID-19 screening questions.
- We ask all patients to call the office when they arrive for their appointments and remain in their vehicles until called inside.
- Patients will have their temperatures checked and we will not be able to provide services to patients with temperatures above 100.4F.
- We ask all patients to wear a protective covering over their nose and mouth until asked to be removed by your treatment provider.
- All patients will rinse with an antimicrobial mouth rinse before starting procedures.