



## Infection Control Reassurance

Infection control has always been a top priority for our practice and you may have seen this during your visits to our office. Our infection control processes are made so that when you receive care, it's both safe and comfortable. We want to tell you about the infection control procedures we follow in our practice to keep patients and staff safe.

Our office follows infection control recommendations made by the American Dental Association (ADA), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). We follow the activities of these agencies so that we are up-to-date on any new rulings or guidance that may be issued.

You may see some changes when it is time for your next appointment. We made these changes to help protect our patients and staff.

### **Screening:**

Our office will communicate with you beforehand to ask some screening questions. You'll be asked those same questions again when you are in the office.

You will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms at the entrance and be given a mask if you do not come with one already. We ask that you keep a mask on except when you are receiving dental treatment.

All employees are screened daily for COVID-19 symptoms before being allowed to work and attest to not having a fever for 24 hours without medication before returning to work.

### **Disinfection in the General Area:**

We have hand sanitizer that we will ask you to use when you enter the dental clinical area. You will also find some in the reception area and other places in the office for you to use as needed.

We disinfect the building's door handles regularly and attempt to leave doors into the dental clinic open when possible.

We will no longer offer magazines and will minimize paper use since those items are difficult to clean and disinfect.

### **Appointments and Physical Distancing:**

Appointments will be managed to allow for social distancing between patients. We will not be

double booking appointments. However, you may be asked to wait in your car or outside the building if there is a wait.

We are also spacing dental chair use for our patients to allow for physical distancing.

New and recall patients will be asked to complete a dental/health history ahead of time and send it to us via email. This will shorten your visit time at the Clinic and increase your safety. In addition, we ask you to review consents ahead of time. All these documents are available on the website.

**Disinfection and Sterilization in the Clinical Area:**

All employees wash hands for 20 seconds before starting work, before and after patient care, after breaks and meals, and restroom visits.

We disinfect our blood pressure cuffs and x-ray aprons after each use and disinfect all surfaces in treatment rooms including counters, signature pads, computer keyboards, computer mouse, and computer monitors after each patient.

Our sterilizers are calibrated annually and our dental instruments are sterilized according to manufacturer's guidance.

We use chemical indicators and spore tests to monitor the sterilizers' functionality daily and weekly.

We continuously disinfect our dental water lines, flush them after each patient, and monitor the water for bacterial presence quarterly.

**Treatment:**

We ask our patients to rinse with a low concentration of hydrogen peroxide before starting care.

When using any dental instrument that sprays water, we employ a rubber dam that will isolate your tooth from saliva and operate high-volume evacuations to reduce aerosols by 95%.

We welcome your questions regarding these infection control measures and look forward to taking care of you and your family.