

Covid-19 Temporary Form

Your family's safety as well as that of our staff's is our top priority. To help reduce the spread of infections, our office has implemented some changes to keep you and your family safe and we wanted to let you know about them prior to your visit so you and your child will both be prepared.

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

- We will continue to use single-use dental materials & hospital-grade disinfectants as we have always done.

- We will continue to use High speed suction and isolation devices during operatives as we have always done.

- All staff will be screened by temperature and questionnaire before coming into the office & will be wearing masks.

- Based on the procedure, our clinical staff will be wearing disposable gowns, optional scrub caps, KN95/N95 certified masks, goggles or

glasses, and face shields. Please explain to younger children that our team will be dressed as 'SUPER HEROes' with mask, shields

and capes.

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

For example:

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

when you arrive at the office.

- We ask that only one parent accompany the child(ren) to the appointment to aid in social distancing while inside the office, unless you are coming for a sedation appointment where we still ask for you to have two parents.

- You will enter the office to check in as you have always done. Please come to the desk to sign in and complete any necessary forms. After the assistant comes to take your child back to their appointment, provide you a pager and you will be asked to wait in your car. We strongly encourage you to prepare your child to enter the appointment on their own. At this time parents will NOT be allowed into the operative area for routine cleaning appointments. One parent will be permitted to accompany new patients, children with special healthcare needs and consultations as these appointments do not create aerosols. At the end of your child's appointment you will be paged to come in to the check out area to complete your visit.

- We will take your child's temperature and the temperature of anyone who will be escorting the child into the office for the appointment.

Any child or parent entering the office will be required to bring and wear a mask or other face covering the entire time while inside our office.

We have hand sanitizer at the reception desk that we will ask you to use when you enter the office.

Currently, our waiting room is only available to our sedated patients. You will see that we no longer offer magazines, children's toys or games, since those items are difficult to clean and disinfect. Please bring entertainment and a blanket for your child to each appointment. We will still be giving away goodie bags with dental supplies and stickers in them.

Our office will be kept cooler to accommodate all of the additional layers our staff needs to wear. You may want to dress accordingly.

We encourage you to use the restroom and have your child brush their teeth before arriving. Brushing before the appointment will reduce inflammation and bacteria which will decrease risk for our team members as well as improve the health status of your child.

Regarding Scheduling appointments:

You might be offered fewer options for scheduling your appointment as we may need to decrease the amount of patients seen on a daily basis in order to limit the amount of people in the office.

We will also be increasing our staff so your child's time spent in our office and wait times for exams are limited while allowing us to help tend to the needs of many patients who may have had their appointments cancelled due to Covid-19.

Normally, we allow one parent in the room during operative appointments if needed. However, during this time, it is considered best practices to only have the actual patient receiving dental treatment to be brought into the office. We realize that this is not always possible with younger or patients with special healthcare needs, but we request that you allow our staff to escort your child to their appointment by themselves if they are over the age of 4. Please speak positively to your child about this prior to their scheduled visit.

Open bay patients will be seated 1st and 3rd chairs unless in the same family.

We are encouraging parents of medically compromised children to consult your pediatrician or defer treatment at this time.

We are screening everyone and we will not allow any child to be treated if they are potentially infected with Covid-19.

Financial concerns:

We always offer CARE CREDIT to every patient and encourage it in this financially stressful time. As mentioned earlier, it has been difficult to acquire PPE and therefore companies have increased pricing coupled with our office having to purchase supplies that were not necessary previously. The ADA has added a new procedure code that you will see on all treatment plans. At this time, not all insurance companies have not raised their reimbursements to account for these additional costs and this is the code we have been instructed to use. Therefore you will see a \$10 fee at each appointment to cover infection control costs, but as always, we will file it to your insurance carrier and make every attempt to get this covered, but we can not guarantee it that it will be a covered service with your insurance plan.

We look forward to seeing you again and are happy to answer any questions you may have about the steps we are taking to keep you, and every patient, safe in our practice. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we work conscientiously toward getting all our patients dental needs back on track in a timely manner. Please be prepared to leave messages or for longer hold times due to the increased amount of calls our amazing front desk will be handling. Thank you for trusting us with your children.

I have read and understand the temporary COVID-19 pandemic policy. I confirm that neither my child/children receiving treatment nor anyone else in my household is exhibiting any of the above-mentioned COVID-19 symptoms. By signing below, I agree that I will comply fully with this temporary office policy.
