

## **COVID-19: PPE, Infection Control, and Social Distancing Protocols**

### Front Office/Reception:

- Patients will be asked to wait in their cars until ready to be seated. Communication will be done through text message via Demandforce. Texts can be sent or received from any workstation.
- All patients will be asked to wear a mask for the entirety of their time in our office, except when receiving dental treatment. If they do not have a mask of their own we will provide them on.
- Patients will be asked to complete all paperwork in their cars, prior to entering office.
- No additional persons may accompany patients into the office, unless it is a minor or someone needing special assistance. All accompanying persons will be asked to wear a mask, and faceshield if present in an aerosol generating procedure.
- Plexiglass barriers will be in place at both front desk work stations.
- Magazines, toys, and the water cooler will be removed from the reception area
- Reception seating will be limited to 3 seats, spaced 6 feet apart. Every effort will be made to minimize or avoid people waiting in the reception area.
- Office pens: there will be a clean cup of pens, and a dirty cup. All dirty cups will be wiped down with cavicide at the end of the day.
- Payment: CC Payments will be done without touching the patient's card. Single-use disposable barriers will be placed on CC terminal.
- Team members will greet their patients at the door and escort them to the operatories.

### General Operatory Protocols: This list assumes universal precautions.

- Temperature will be taken on all patients once seated in the operatory. Anything less than 100.4 degrees is Ok
- Patients will be asked screening questions regarding COVID-19 symptoms, and/or exposure, and be asked to sign a consent to treatment.
- Barriers will be employed on everything possible (keyboard, mouse, delivery units, etc.). In addition, all excess clinical instrumentation (cotton pliers, scissors) and supplies will be removed from operatory counter tops to reduce the exposure to aerosols. Or, placed within a wipeable container that protects them from contamination.
- Provider and auxiliaries will don a mask prior to entering the treatment area, and wear throughout the appointment. We will wear the highest level of mask available to us, in this order: N95, KN95, level III surgical mask. I have ordered some KN95 masks that will hopefully be delivered by May 18th.
- N95/KN95 surgical masks can be re-used between patients, if not damaged or visible soiled. To reduce the risk of contamination, when possible a level III surgical mask will be worn over the N95/KN95 mask to reduce the risk of being soiled and cross contamination between patients.
- Face Shields will be worn by all team members, when performing aerosol generating procedures.

- Disposable lab coats will be made available, to be used at the discretion of the team member, in addition to our usual clinical attire.
- Surgical caps will be worn by all clinical team members.
- All clinical gear will be left at the office and laundered on site.
- Team members will keep PPE on while turning rooms.

#### Hygiene Operatory Protocols:

- High vacuum suction will be used when using the cavitron.
- Two options for high vacuum suction: 1) Isodry/Dryshield System or 2) PureVac System
- Hygiene appointments will be staggered by 30 minutes to reduce patients bunching up in the reception area. When four hygienists are working, two will start seeing patients at 7:30 and two will start at 8.
- During the first few weeks back, an assistant will be assigned as an hygiene facilitator for the day.

#### Restorative Operatory Protocols:

- Usual four-handed dentistry protocols.

#### Inter-office Protocols:

- Team members will be screened for symptoms on a daily basis, and we will keep a daily log of screening.
- Masks will be worn throughout the day, when interacting with each other, as physical distancing is not possible in our workplace setting.
- Congregating in common areas will be minimized as much as possible (e.g. eating lunch in our cars, etc.)

#### Miscellaneous:

- I have purchased four portable air filters to be placed throughout our office, in an effort to keep our air free of viral particles.