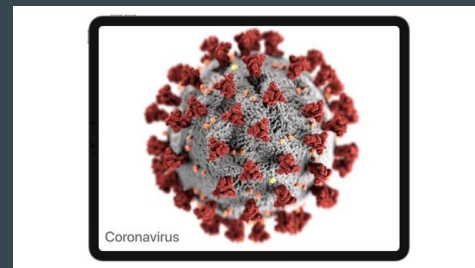


# Covid 19 Office Screening Protocol

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Sean Whalen DDS  
Colorado Dental Association  
Metropolitan Denver Dental Society  
Webinar  
4/16/2020



# What can we do to protect our patients, staff and ourselves?

Screening patients, staff and ourselves daily will help limit our exposure to Covid 19 and help maintain a safe workplace.

# WHAT'S YOUR RISK LEVEL?

## HIGH RISK

Close contact in a household with someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19.

## MEDIUM RISK

Sustained close contact (10 minutes or longer) within six feet of a symptomatic person.

## LOW RISK

Being in the same room as a symptomatic person who has tested positive for COVID-19 but didn't go within six feet of them.

## NO RISK

Walking by or briefly being in a room with a symptomatic person who tested positive.

# *Stop the Spread*

@NCDHHS • #COVID19NC

## Are You High Risk?

These people are at higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19.  
Take actions to reduce your risk of getting sick.



Those in **close household contact** with person diagnosed with COVID-19

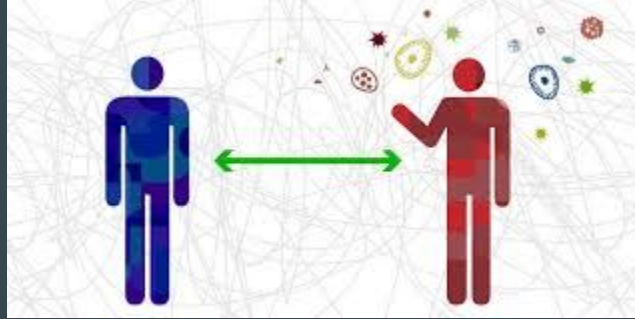


People **65+ years old**



People with **underlying health conditions** (ie. heart/lung/kidney disease, diabetes, weakened immune system, etc.)

Screening will allow us to identify high risk individuals and reserve treatment for only low risk individuals that have maintained social distancing during our statewide period of quarantine.



# Screening Options for Patients

1. Phone screening before appointment
2. Screening patients using a teledentistry platform
3. Screening applications like COVID developed by the CDC and Apple
4. Onsite screening prior to entering treatment area including a temperature reading and screening questionnaire.

\*A combination of these techniques will most likely be needed.

\*Dentists and staff need to record their temperatures daily and log them

# Based on what we know those at high risk for severe illness from Covid 19 are:

- People over the age of 65
- People living in a nursing home or long care facility
- Chronic lung disease or asthma
- Immunocompromised patients
- Chronic liver, heart or kidney disease
- Obesity
- Diabetics

- Be open to change

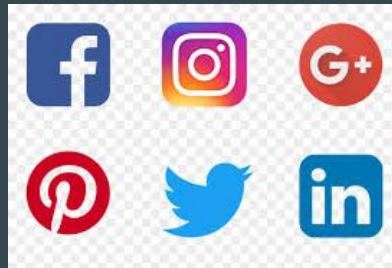
- Our screening questions and protocols will most likely change as we learn more

- Most families or patients will expect screening on some level



# Use email and text platforms to alert patients of screening and provide screening questions

- Develop an email to go out to all patients letting them to know what to expect when they return to your office.
- Text all of your patients to alert them of screening protocols
- Use social media to alert patients you are open. Take photos and short videos as examples of what they are to expect when they enter your office





# Phone Screening

- Simple phone screening will allow you to reduce the number of potentially infected patients from coming into your office.
- Front staff should call all incoming patients the day before or day of their appointment and screen patients.
- This is also a good time to remind patients of what to expect when they come to your office
- If you determine the patient is not healthy enough to be seen, recommend they consult with their physician to see if a Covid test is indicated and not to return until they meet criteria of a healthy patient

# Phone Screening

Make sure whomever is calling from your office has a written script to consistently ask the appropriate questions

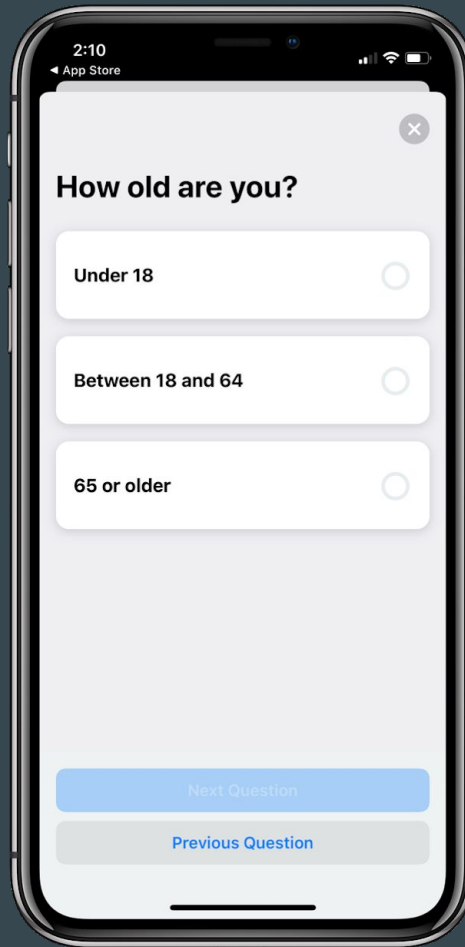
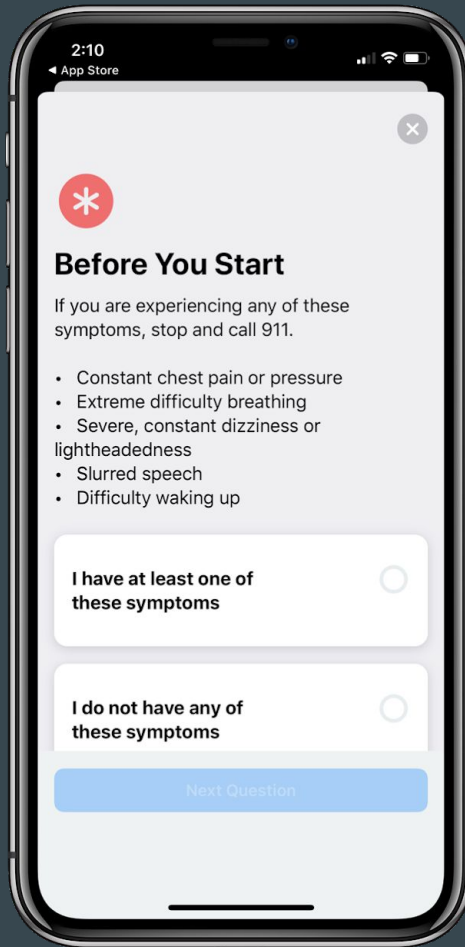
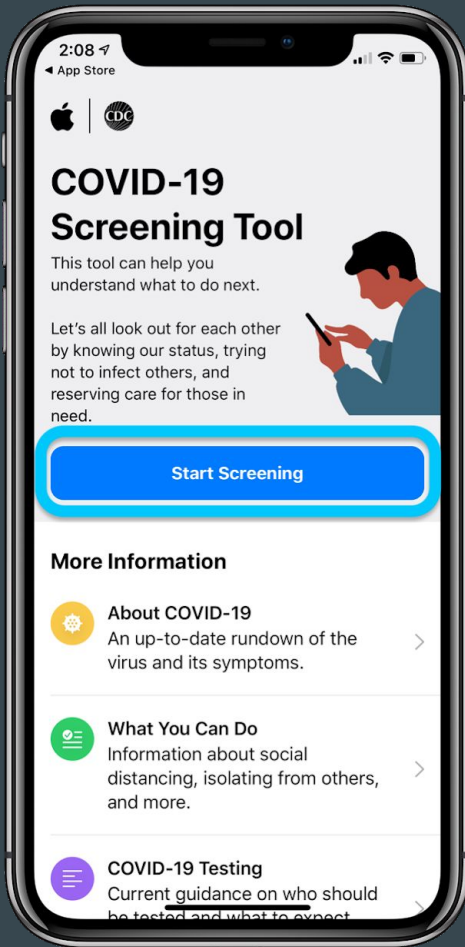
Document that the patient was screened over the phone

Keep track of the patients you turned away and follow up in two weeks

# App Screening

- Apple and the CDC have created a screening application that a person can screen themselves or someone else.
- The app could be used by a patient prior to their appointment or by one of your staff to screen a patient or staff member when they arrive at your office.





# App Screening

- Easy universal tool
- Easy to use
- Difficult to document

# Examples of Teledentistry Platforms

Teledentistry.com

Dentulu.com

Some PM software companies have a platform



**TELEDENTISTRY**.COM  
Your Dentist, Anytime Anywhere®





# Teledentistry Screening

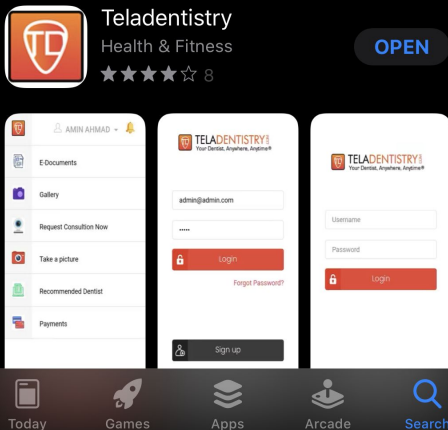
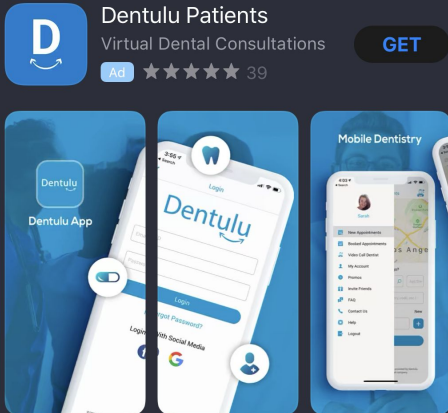
- Allows you to screen patients on a hipaa compliant platform
- Keeps a record of patients you screened
- Some of the platforms are compatible with PM software
- There is no risk of exposure over the phone!



9:36



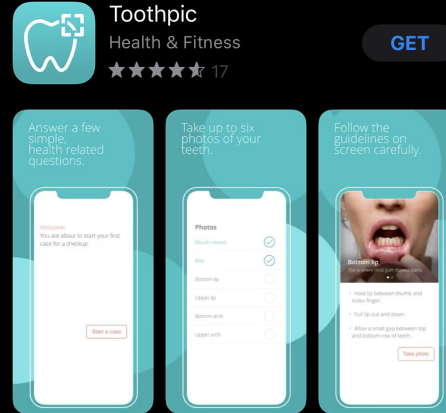
teledentistry Cancel



9:35



teledentistry Cancel





dentaworld@gmail.com

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Login

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# In Office Screening

- All patients, staff and dentists must be screened prior to entering the clinic area
- To begin the screening process ask the patient or parent Covid 19 screening questions
- Take their temperature to determine if the person is febrile. The CDC defines a person febrile if they have a temperature greater or equal to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
- Documentation of screening is vital
- The Trust liability carrier has examples of special Covid consent forms

# In Office Screening

- Consider a screening area before the patients reach the front desk.
- Have multiple thermometers
- Person screening should have appropriate PPE
- Disinfect thermometer in between each use
- Screen patient and anyone accompanying them
- Put up signage alerting patients to stop for screening

# CORONAVIRUS



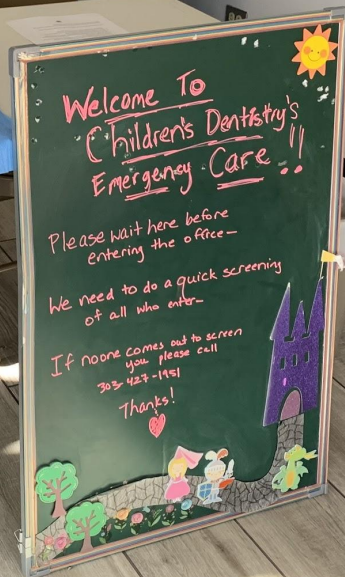
## Screening Survey Point

For your protection as well as our  
colleagues, we are conducting a  
three-question screening  
survey at 11





CHILDREN'S DENTISTRY  
RECOGNIZES THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS  
AS ASSOCIATED WITH OUR OFFICE  
DR. CONSTRUCTION  
PROJECT MANAGER: PETER HARRISON  
ARCHITECT: MICHAEL SHAW  
CONTRACTOR: RONALD HARRIS



# Screening Questions

Do you have a fever or abnormal temperature?

Have experienced shortness of breath or had trouble breathing?

Do you have a dry cough?

Do you have a runny nose?

Loss of taste and Smell?

Do you have a sore throat?

Have you been in contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid 19?



# Screening Questions

Have you been tested for Covid 19 and are you awaiting results?

Have you traveled outside of the United States by air or cruise ship in past 14 days?

Have you traveled within the United States by air, bus, or train within the past 14 days?

\*\*\*Make the patient sign and date the form

I should also be

Wearing a face shield



# CDC Recommendations

## Patient screening procedures during COVID-19

Begin the patient screening process with standardized questions when the patient calls for an appointment. All appointment reminders for routine care should include a check-in with patients regarding their health status and reminders to reschedule if they do not feel well, are running a fever or believe they have been exposed to COVID-19 and are waiting through the two-week incubation period.

# CDC Recommendations

Include temperature readings as part of your routine assessment of patients prior to performing dental procedures.

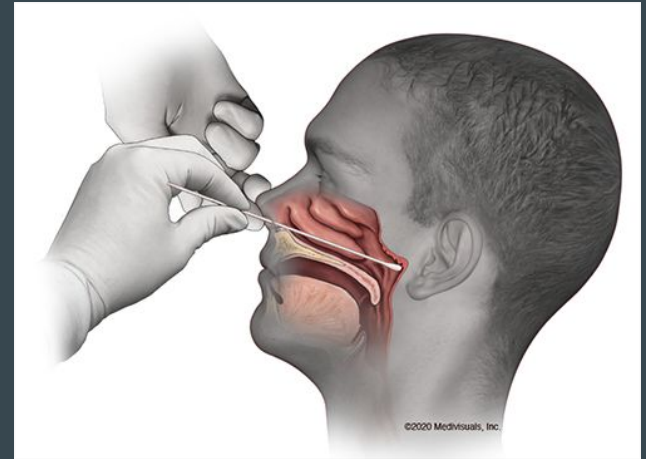
CDC recommends healthcare facilities, including dental offices, screen patients before proceeding with an appointment. Information to take note of:

- Any individual who exhibits or reports signs of acute respiratory illness such as coughing, fever and shortness of breath.
- Recent travel to any locations that have a Level 3 Travel Health Notice for COVID-19. Verify when the patient returned to the United States. If the patient reports that at least two weeks have passed since their return from one of the identified regions and no symptoms have presented, the dental office can proceed with the appointment. When local, state or federal public health officials declare the disease is at the community level, screening for travel is not necessary.
- Close contact with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19.

# CDC Recommendations

Dentists may also send a notice advising patients who are experiencing acute respiratory illness to remain home and reschedule appointments.

- If you deem someone not healthy enough to come into your office, don't be afraid to turn them away.
- Know the nearest testing centers
- Follow up with patients you recommend get tested



# Resources

-Handouts

-ADA

-Covid Screen Apps



-Teledentistry Platforms



