

COVID-19 PANDEMIC - PATIENT DISCLOSURES

This patient disclosure form seeks information from you that we must consider before making treatment decisions in the circumstance of the COVID-19 virus.

A weak or compromised immune system (including, but not limited to, conditions like diabetes, asthma, COPD, cancer treatment, radiation, chemotherapy, and any prior or current disease or medical condition), can put you at greater risk for contracting COVID-19. Please disclose to us any condition that compromises your immune system and understand that we may ask you to consider rescheduling treatment after discussing any such conditions with us.

It is also important that you disclose to this office any indication of having been exposed to COVID-19, or whether you have experienced any signs or symptoms associated with the COVID-19 virus.

	Yes	No
Do you have a fever or above normal temperature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you experienced shortness of breath or had trouble breathing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a dry cough?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a runny nose?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you recently lost or had a reduction in your sense of smell?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a sore throat?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you tested positive for COVID-19?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you been tested for COVID-19 and are awaiting results?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you traveled outside the United States by air or cruise ship in the past 14 days?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you traveled within the United States by air, bus or train within the past 14 days?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I fully understand and acknowledge the above information, risks and cautions regarding a compromised immune system and have disclosed to my provider any conditions in my health history which may result in a compromised immune system.

By signing this document, I acknowledge that the answers I have provided above are true and accurate.

Signature

Date

Witness

COVID-19 EXAMPLE LETTER TO PATIENTS

Dear Patient,

Patient health and safety is always taken very seriously at our dental practice. Please know that we are vigilantly monitoring the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) situation and will continue to operate on a normal schedule for now, but these hours could change based on how this situation progresses within our community. We are encouraging our employees to stay home if they are not feeling well or have been possibly exposed to someone who is ill. We are also asking our patients to do the same and please call to reschedule your appointment if you or a family member have any flu- or cold-like symptoms (i.e. fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, etc.) or have traveled out of the country within the past 30 days.

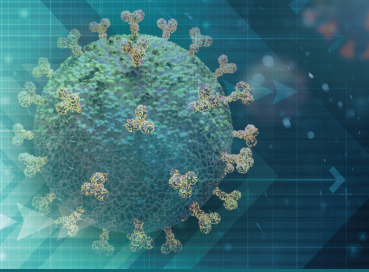
We will continue to use the CDC- and OSHA-mandated cleaning and disinfection protocols in our treatment area utilizing a bactericidal, viricidal, fungicidal and tuberculocidal disinfectant that will kill the coronavirus. As an extra precaution to keep our patients and staff protected, we will have hand-sanitizer for you to use when you first come into our office. We have also removed toys, magazines, video games, coffee and water stations, iPads, and computers from our waiting rooms to help prevent cross contamination.

We would also like to limit family members in our waiting room and in our treatment areas so it would be helpful for everyone, except the patient and perhaps one family member if necessary, to wait in the car and provide a cell phone number so we can update you about the appointment by phone.

For future updates, we encourage you to check out our Facebook or Instagram pages. The health and safety of our patients and our team is of utmost importance. We greatly appreciate your help and understanding with these temporary measures to combat the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give our office a call.



Preparing your periodontal practice for Coronavirus (COVID-19)



On March 16, 2020, the American Dental Association (ADA) issued a recommendation that all dentists nationwide postpone elective procedures for three weeks to alleviate the burden that dental emergencies would place on hospital emergency departments. The American Dental Association also issued guidance on what constitutes emergency versus non-emergency procedures in a dental office. Please visit ada.org for up-to-date resources. This information is intended to help practitioners determine how and when to most safely treat patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. The AAP advises that its members follow these recommendations while also looking to state dental boards, associations, and licensing agencies for more specific, localized information.

It should be noted that these are currently recommendations, not mandates. Until otherwise directed by national or state regulatory bodies, periodontists should rely on their clinical acumen and specialized training to determine when a patient needs emergency treatment.

The following information is compiled from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Please visit cdc.gov/COVID19 for the most up-to-date information on the virus and recommended precautions.

How to handle patients in the periodontal office

Prepare



- Identify which patients are at higher risk of adverse outcomes from COVID-19. These higher risk populations include those:
 - Who are 65 years of age or older
 - With a history of pulmonary disease, chronic kidney disease, liver disease, cardiovascular disease, HIV, diabetes mellitus
 - With a history of transplants
 - Who are on immunosuppressive medicationsSee cdc.gov for more information.
- Have appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Stay connected with your state health department regarding specific guidelines pertaining to the status of COVID-19 in your area.

Communicate



- Question all patients about symptoms related to COVID-19 (fever, cough, breathing difficulty) when determining who needs to be seen. Ask about recent travel and community exposure. See AAP's Guidelines for COVID Screening for more information.
- Reschedule non-urgent appointments and postpone elective procedures.
- Provide updates about changes to your policies regarding appointments.
- Check outgoing office messages as well as auto appointment scheduling tools to be sure they are sensitive to this health crisis and align with current COVID-19 procedures.
- Use your practice website and social media channels to share updates.
- Post signs at entrances and in waiting areas about preventive actions and office safety protocols.

Protect



- Ensure patient supplies are readily available: tissues, alcohol-based hand rub, appropriate facemasks, soap/towels, trash cans.
- Place chairs 6 feet apart. Use barriers if possible. Remove toys, reading materials, or other communal objects from waiting room.
- Allow patients to wait in cars. Have staff at entrance screen patients about symptoms: fever, cough, breathing difficulty. Take patients' temperatures upon arrival. Limit non-patient visitors.
- Provide symptomatic patients with facemasks.
- Emphasize proper hand hygiene and cough etiquette for everyone.
- Separate symptomatic patients from healthy. Place sick patients in private rooms as quickly as possible.
- After patients leave, clean surfaces with EPA-registered disinfectant.
- Provide at-home care instructions to patients with respiratory symptoms. Follow up by phone.
- Notify health department of any patients with COVID-19.

Find signs for your clinic and infection prevention guidelines: www.cdc.gov/COVID19. Monitor your state's regulations regarding management of emergency patients and treatment protocols. Be prepared and be safe!