

Visiting the Dentist During COVID-19

Routine dental exams are crucial to your oral health and overall wellness. Earlier in the year as COVID-19 upended our lives, preventive dental care was put on hold. As restrictions are lifted, many dental offices are reopening to help patients meet their dental health needs.

Learn what dental practices are doing to keep their staff and patients safe, and what you can expect on your return to the dentist office:

Before Your Appointment:

- To allow social distancing between patients, there may be fewer appointment time options and longer waiting periods. To minimize the number of people in the office, you may be asked to leave family members or caregivers at home unless it's necessary for them to accompany you for the appointment.
- You may be asked screening questions to make sure you do not have any COVID-19 symptoms (such as fever or cough) and to confirm you have not been in contact with anyone diagnosed with COVID-19.
- You may be asked to complete paperwork at home and submit electronically before your appointment.

Appointment Day:

- You may be asked to wait in your car until the staff is ready, and the front office staff will likely call or text you to let you know when to come in.
- Waiting rooms will have fewer chairs and no magazines or toys
- Upon arrival, you may have your temperature taken and may be asked to wear a mask.
- Front office staff will be wearing face masks, shields, gowns, and head coverings.
- You may be asked additional screening questions about having COVID-19 symptoms.
- You may see additional dividers at the front desk and throughout the office.
- You may need to wash your hands before treatment. Hand sanitizer will be provided.
- Treatment may be modified to reduce aerosols. For example, the hygienist may hand-polish your teeth instead of ultrasonic cleaning.
- You will be asked to notify your dentist if you experience any COVID-19 symptoms or you test positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of your appointment.

If you have any questions about safety measures, contact your dentist directly. Please remember to be patient with your dental office as they learn to navigate this new way of providing care.