

# COVID-19 SAFETY UPDATE



davis family DENTISTRY

WHAT WE ARE DOING TO ENSURE YOUR SAFETY IN THE REALM OF  
COVID-19

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## A Word From Our Team

At Davis Family Dentistry, **we love our patients**. and go to great lengths to ensure your safety and comfort. That means, during this time of closure we have been working hard to bring you the highest in safety standards as well as top notch dentistry. Our safety and disinfection protocols have always adhered to the highest standards. But now, we have raised our standards to exceed those set forth by the ADA and CDC. We do this because your safety and comfort, as well as that of our team, are important. We deliver really **great dentistry**, with your **safety** and **comfort** as our top priority..

# PATIENT EDUCATION

# PATIENT PRE- SCREENING

**Handwashing:** The importance of proper handwashing technique, using soap, water, and/or alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Proper handwashing before/after each patient encounter is both fundamental and critical for safety.

**PPE:** The necessity of additional personal protective equipment, as well as its appropriate use, is important. This includes masks and/or respirators, face shields, caps, gowns, gloves.

**Temperature:** All patients and team members will have their temperature taken immediately upon arrival to the office with a touchless thermometer. Those with an abnormally elevated temperature will be sent home.

**Pre-screening:** A series of screening questions have been implemented to identify patients who are at risk for having been exposed to Covid-19. Those with risk of exposure will be asked to reschedule their appointment.

**Phone Call:** During your initial phone call with our office, our team will ask a series of questions to help us identify those who may have been exposed to Covid-19. Those who are at risk for exposure, or who may have acquired the virus, will be asked to reschedule an entry to our clinic until an appropriate time. Our team can, in the meantime, manage appropriate cases virtually.

## **Online Forms and**

**scheduling:** Scheduling has been adjusted and every effort has been made to mitigate time spent in the lobby. Forms are online, and additional information will be gathered over the phone to minimize your exposure to surfaces and individuals. Please help us ensure your safety and be best prepared for you. Your medical history can be filled out prior to your arrival on our website.

**High risk patients:** If you have a compromised immune system or are elderly, we will make every effort to schedule you early in the day with minimal patient traffic.

# SOCIAL DISTANCING

# PATIENT ARRIVAL

**One patient at a time:** When appropriate, patients will be requested to arrive alone, and will enter treatment areas alone, when reasonable to do so. Cases that are not appropriate for not being accompanied, a single person will be allowed to accompany the patient. The accompanying person should ideally wait in the car, and if needed to be present at the appointment, we request that they bring a mask to wear throughout their time spent in our facility.

**Waiting room:** Chairs have been spaced appropriately for social distancing; as such, there are fewer chairs available. Reading material has been removed from our waiting room. We have wi-fi available so that patients may access material on devices during their visit.

**We will do our best to respect your appointment time.** We have extensive measures for social distancing at this time. At times this calls for limiting patient traffic entering/exiting the clinic. This is to ensure safety.

**Medical history:** Please fill out medical history forms online prior to arrival. This is for patient safety. Forms can be found on our website. \*if the online submission is not possible, please notify our office and arrive early so that we may accommodate you .

**Masks:** If you have a mask at home, please wear it when you arrive to help ensure proper social distancing measures.

**Waiting room:** In order to minimize contact with others in the waiting room, please call our office prior to your entry to our facility, to let us know you have arrived.

**Covid screening:** Screening questions may be repeated. Temperature will be taken using a touchless thermometer. We will provide hand sanitizer for your use upon entry.

**Disinfection:** You may notice frequent cleaning of surfaces. We are cleaning surfaces with increased frequency throughout the day.

**Breathe easy:** We have implemented medical grade air purification systems. These will be visible throughout our office.

# Patient Treatment

**Preparation:** Treatment rooms must be cleaned and disinfected immediately following patient traffic and in accordance with our stringent safety protocols. Patients can be escorted to the treatment room following completion of thorough disinfection and cleaning.

**Preoperative rinse:** A one minute preoperative peroxide-based rinse will be administered upon entry to the treatment room.

**Rubber Dam Isolation:** When possible, dental dam barriers or other forms of isolation will be used to protect the patient and maintain asepsis in the area to be treated. This barrier additionally provides protection to providers from oral contaminants that would otherwise aerosolize.

**Suction:** High volume and low volume suction will be used to reduce aerosol and maintain patient comfort.

**Air purification:** Medify medical grade air filtration units will be placed strategically throughout the facility.

**Following treatment:** All contaminated disposables are immediately disposed of by appropriate means. Non-disposable medical equipment will be disinfected or sterilized by autoclave or similar device. Equipment or supplies that cannot be sterilized by autoclave are cleaned and sanitized with high grade medical disinfectants.

**Hand hygiene:** Patients are encouraged to wash hands or use hand sanitizer following treatment.

**Check out:** Currently we are accepting all forms of payment (cash, credit, check). Hand sanitizer is available at checkout. All contaminated surfaces at reception are routinely wiped and disinfected in a similar manner to treatment rooms using medical grade disinfectants. Additionally, we are looking into alternative forms of contactless payment to further address this aspect of our protocol.

# Team Recommendations

**Temperature:** Daily temperature checks will be taken upon arrival. If a team member or a household member displays signs of a respiratory illness or fever, they will be asked to stay at home.

**PPE:** Team members will continue to follow best practices for healthcare providers in PPE and hygiene, including but not limited to short nails, hair tied back, no additional accessories. Hand washing and/or alcohol-based sanitizer are to be used for each patient encounter.

**Cleanliness and organization:** All team members are expected to keep operatories and work areas clean, organized, and free of clutter.

**Clothing:** Team members will change out of used scrubs prior to departing the office, leaving soiled linens to be laundered in-office. Clinic shoes will be left in the office. Any soiled linens leaving the office must be bagged.

**Phone use:** Office phones, headsets, clipboards, any contaminated surface will be disinfected after each use. Personal cell phone use, or possession, in the clinic area is prohibited. Staff lounge use of cell phones is permitted during breaks. Personal cell phones should be cleaned prior to departing the office.

**Exiting the office:** PPE, clinic attire, and clinic shoes must be removed at the end of each day with clean clothes and shoes available for changing. Disposable PPE must be disposed of properly; re-usable PPE must be properly disinfected, sanitized and deposited in designated location. Hands must be washed immediately prior to departure.

**Home Hygiene:** Team members are highly encouraged to shower immediately upon arrival at home to protect the safety of their families

# Team Safety Protocols

**CDC and ADA recommendations:** We align our team to follow all guidelines. These guidelines are evolving through the Covid-19 Pandemic, and we are implementing new guidelines as they are released. We are relentless in our purpose of facilitating oral health in the safest and most comfortable environment. Compliance is mandatory.

**Handwashing and Hygiene:** Team members will continue to follow best practices for healthcare providers hygiene, including but not limited to short nails, hair tied back, no additional accessories. Hand washing and/or alcohol-based sanitizer are to be used before, during and after each patient encounter, or following contact with any surface that could be contaminated.

**PPE:** Team members must place and remove PPE per CDC guidelines. The order of PPE placement includes: gown/jacket, mask, eye and face protection, then gloves. The order of removal is the reverse. Wash hands following removal. PPE that is visibly soiled must be immediately removed, then discarded if disposable, or disinfected and sanitized if re-usable. N95/KN95 respirators will be used for aerosol producing procedures, and will be covered with a surgical mask as well during use; the outer surgical mask is to be replaced for each patient encounter. Eye protection and/or face shields are to be used by team members, as well as patients (eye protection only). Nondisposable eye wear and face shields shall not leave the treatment room, and shall be sanitized following each use. Clean gloves shall be used for each patient encounter, and shall be replaced during treatment if heavily soiled or damaged. No Team Member shall leave the treatment room wearing gloves that have been used in any capacity.