

**Safety Standards
During COVID-19 *and* Beyond**



		Aerosol Procedures	Non-Aerosol Procedures
PPE Recommendations	N95 respirator masks	X	
	Full face shields	X	X
	Full arm gowns	X	
	Surgical face masks		X
	Eye protection	X	X
	Gloves	X	X
	Rubber dams	X	
	High volume suction tips	X	
	Patient surgical masks in non-treatment areas	X	X
	Patient eye protection	X	X
Patient aprons	X	X	
Infection Control - <i>Enhanced Cleaning</i>	Treatment rooms	X	X
	Dental equipment	X	X
	More frequent handwashing	X	X
	Signage asking all guests to wash hands	X	X
	Patients rinse with hydrogen peroxide	X	X
	Workstations	X	X
	Patient check-in areas	X	X
	Waiting area chairs	X	X
	Touch area light covers	X	X
	HEPA airflow filters	X	
Aerosol extraction units	X		
Social Distancing Measures	Patient schedules spaced out	X	X
	6-feet chair spacing in non-treatment areas	X	X
	No guests in waiting area	X	X
Screening Protocol	Questionnaires at check-in	X	X
	Temperature checks outside	X	X
	TeleDentistry appointments	X	X

These guidelines were developed by the PDA, and based on ADA and CDC recommendations. Guidelines are subject to change as updates are recommended by governing bodies.

The Professional Dental Alliance (PDA) with guidance from our Dental Advisory Board (DAB) has established updated Safety Standards as of April 21st, 2020 in response to COVID-19 safety management.

The updated Safety Standards are designed to protect our team members and patients by utilizing proper PPE, enhanced infection control measures, and adhering to social distancing regulations across the country. These guidelines were developed based on Aerosol-production during procedures and are intended to provide direction on how to minimize risks.

Aerosol producing procedures:

- Any procedure requiring the use of high-speed handpiece
- Any procedure requiring the use of a cavitron or any other similar ultrasonic handpiece

PPE Recommendations

N95 Masks: All providers to wear a respirator mask while performing aerosol producing procedures. One (1) N95 respirator mask per provider per day (unless contaminated or soiled), with a fresh Level-3 surgical face mask worn over the N95 for each patient. The N95 respirator masks are not required for non-aerosol producing procedures.

Full Face Shields: All providers to wear a face shield during aerosol producing procedures. The face shields are non-disposable and should be wiped with proper sterilization wipes between patients. Depending on the type, the visor portion may need to be replaced daily. Full face shields are not required for non-aerosol producing procedures but recommended as an added measure of protection.

Full Arm Gowns: All providers to wear a new full arm gowns for a patient having an aerosol producing procedure. The gown is to be discarded at the end of the aerosol producing procedure.

Surgical Face Masks: All providers to wear a new surgical face mask for every procedure. The mask would have to be changed after every patient. In addition, all patients would be offered to wear a surgical face mask in non-treatment rooms.

Eye Protection: All providers to wear eye protection for every procedure. The eye protection would be non-disposable and would have to be sterilized with a wipe after every patient procedure. In addition, all patients would have to wear eye protection for every procedure.

Gloves: All providers to wear a new set of gloves for every procedure and changed as needed.

Rubber Dam: All providers would have rubber dams available at the office to use for aerosol producing procedures as needed.

High Volume Suction Tips: All providers to use high volume suction tips for every aerosol producing procedures.

Patient Aprons: All patients to get Aprons or Bibs to wear for every procedure.

Infection Control – Enhanced Cleaning Protocols

We are implementing enhanced cleaning protocols, utilizing sterilization wipes, liquid sprays and related equipment to sterilize all of the following after every patient visit:

- Treatment rooms
- Dental equipment inside and outside the rooms
- All non-dental surfaces inside the rooms
- Workstations
- Patient check-in and check-out areas
- Reception-area chairs

We are also encouraging frequent handwashing by all team members and adding signage to our offices asking our guests to also wash hands when they enter our facility.

Social Distancing Measures and Screening Protocols

We are implementing additional guidelines to adhere to social distancing protocols:

- Allow additional time for each procedure so we can perform our new enhanced cleaning protocols after every patient visit.
- All common area chairs outside of treatment rooms have 6-feet spacing.
- We are asking our patients not to wait in the reception areas. Instead, we will direct them to come in from outside the office directly in to the operatory.
- Covid-risk questionnaire given to every patient at check-in.
- All team members and patients are to have their temperature checked prior to entering the office.
- Provide TeleDentistry consults for those patients who prefer to stay at home for basic consult or post-operative appointments.