

Infection Control Protocol during the COVID-19 Pandemic



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This plan will detail the protocol of patient and team member management by area and by members of the team.

To avoid repetition, the following abbreviations will be used:

- Treatment rooms = TR
- Personal Protective Equipment = PPE (masks, hair cover, face shield, eye protection, shoe cover)
- Waiting room = WR

A. Preparations

The office has been equipped with the following:

- High volume vacuums to capture the aerosols
- Air filters that recycle the air in 5 minutes
- Face shields for loupes
- Gowns (disposable and reusable)
- KN95 and N95 masks
- Level 3 masks
- Level 1 masks
- Hair covers
- Shoes covers
- Sneeze barriers
- Hand sanitizers from touchless dispensers
- Touchless Soap Dispensers
- Reconfigured the waiting room to contain less people
- Garment bags for patient and staff coats
- Bags for Personal belongings of patients and staff
- Plastic covers for the seating area in the waiting room
- Removed all water bottles, magazines, lip balms, pens, plants
- Touchless thermometer
- Handheld UV light

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B. Treatment Protocol

1. Staff Management Upon Arrival:

Morning staff will take their own temperature at home. If they have a fever, they will contact their teammates to notify the person without a temperature that they will have to open the office. If no fevers are reported, one person will arrive first to:

- Open the gate
- Take their personal mask and put it in a personal brown paper bag
- Open the lobby door
- Wipe/wash hands
- Open a bag that will be left every evening in the console of the lobby. That bag will contain a thermometer, a garment bag, shoe cover, hair cover, a new mask and a gown.
- Re-check their temperature - If normal, will stay; if not, contact point person.
- The thermometer will be disinfected.
- Put PPE on and enter the office.
- Upon each member arrival, they don't enter the office until they are checked by the team member who is already on-site. If they pass, they will be handed a bag that contains the same thing, put their coat in the garment bag, put the gown on, hair cover, mask and then enter the office.
- Staff will go to a designated TR and put their clothes in the garment bag, if they want to change into scrubs as well their street shoes if they are changing to shoes kept in the office. The doctor will do the same in the doctor's office, and the hygienist in the hygiene TR.
- All personal belongings including cell phone and hand bags, back pack or anything in the same range will be also stowed in bags.

This will be repeated by the business team for each one who should wait distanced from the others outside.

2. Waiting Room:

- a - Each evening, the business team will contact patients for the next day and ask them: if they have fever, cough, flu-like symptoms (fatigue, body ache, watery eyes, feels shivers, not to confuse with seasonal allergies). They will be instructed that no escort should accompany them and that they will arrive on time.
- b - Patients will be checked with the thermometer before entering the office and will only be admitted if they do not have a temperature.
- c - At any given time, there should be no more than three patients in the waiting room. They will sit in the three designated spots. They will be required to put their coats in a garment bag that will be handed to them by the business team as well as all personal belonging hand bags, back pack or anything in the same range will be also stowed in bags. Cell phone should be kept in their pockets or bags. We will hand them a mask, and a gown, shoe cover, hair cover that they will put on before entering the waiting room.
- d - The door leading to the treatment area will be closed at all times

3. Treatment areas:

- a - Patient will be escorted from the waiting room by the dental assistant or hygienist that are wearing full PPE, patient will be seated on the dental chair and the hygienist and providers can start the treatment.
- b - At this time, patient will remove the mask and place it in a bag dispensed by the staff.
- c - Patient will rinse three times with hydrogen peroxide, their mouth will be wiped with a gauze dipped in hydrogen peroxide, wiping the floor of the mouth, tongue, palate, pillars of the palate, muco-buccal folds and cheeks.
- d - After the assistant members and provider have checked that all material and equipment needed for the procedure is available, the treatment will begin after verifying that their PPE is in place.
- e - If the treatment requires aerosols due to use of piezo, cavitron or high-speed turbine, the high vacuum suction should be in position and turned on.
- f - If the provider is to leave the TR, he or she will change and drop the used PPE in a designated bag in each room at the door, take new PPE and put them on and go do what they are supposed to do. At any time a patient encounter takes place and a possibility of contamination is suspected, the PPE will be changed before exiting the treatment room, changed with a new one that will be placed on the outside of each TR. UV lights can be used to pass it over the Gown and mask again in case no contamination is suspected. We need to be cognitive of the difficulty of procuring PPE's.
- g - We will avoid crowding in the hallway, we wait until any incoming traffic is cleared by contacting the business team and they clear your movement

- h** - The doors of each TR will be closed at all times
- i** - At the end of the procedure, the patient will remove the gown, place it in the disposable bag and put on a new gown, their mask and escorted to the WR. They will pay by CC, that the terminal is handed to them, which will be wiped before replacement in the closed area of the business team.
- j** - Patient will remove and dispose of the gown, hair cover and their shoe cover in a bag placed outside and will keep their mask

4. Cleaning of Rooms:

At the end of every treatment, the TR will be cleaned fully, the counters, door of the cabinets, cabinets, floor wiped, the whole dental chair wiped after removal and disposal of the plastic covers and we will wait for 10 minutes before bringing in next patient.

5. Providers and staff:

- a** - The staff will cover their coats with garment bag upon arrival, cover their shoes and put on a gown, hair cover. Temperature will be checked. When they change in scrubs they will place their clothes in that garment bag.
- b** - They will bring their food with them. No outside orders.
- c** - The gown will only be changed after encounters with patients.
- d** - Will stagger lunch and breaks
- e** - Hand washing every time the gloves are removed
- f** - No hand shaking, no touching each other
- g** - If you are feeling sick, DO NOT COME IN.

6. Business Team:

- a** - We will have 2 in the front
- b** - A front desk team member will check everybody's temperature before entering the office and hand them PPE, masks, shoe cover. All of these will be put on before entering the office.
- c** - The two will keep a 6 foot distance. If they need to walk out, the one to the edge of the front desk, will move so that the inner employee can pass and maintain the 6 foot distance.
- d** - All will be wearing a gown upon arrival, shoe cover and hair cover.
- e** - Maintain good hygiene upon each patient encounter, meaning use the hand sanitizers and wear gloves
- f** - If you are feeling sick, DO NOT COME IN.

It will take time, but we will adjust to it and come out better.