

Curbside Waiting- Our waiting room can accommodate 4-6 people spaced at least 6 feet apart. Because of this limitation, each patient will need to wait in their car until their appointment time. Prior to their appointment, the patient should receive a text reminding them that they might need to stay in their vehicle and text us when they arrive in our parking lot. That text will alert the front desk that they are here, and the front desk can invite them to enter the building when there is adequate space in the waiting room.

Checking In- When a patient enters the building, they will be greeted by a Clinic Assistant who is wearing her surgical mask. The Clinic Assistant will then take the patient's temperature and the receptionist will record this temperature in the patient's chart. Any patient with a temperature that exceeds **100.4** degrees Fahrenheit will need to be screened by a doctor to determine if the fever is possibly associated with a dental infection. Patients with a fever but no dental infection should be re-scheduled at a future date at least one week out. If the patient has a healthy temperature, the Clinic Assistant will escort the patient to the clinical area where they will be encouraged to rinse with either Listerine or Chlorhexidine for 30 seconds prior to initiation of dental procedures.

Checking out- After the patient has finished treatment, the Clinic Assistant will direct the patient to exit the clinic area that is closest to the front desk. The patient can then be "walked out" (make payments and rescheduled) before they exit the building.

PPE- Each clinician (doctor, assistant, or hygienist) will have the option of using standard surgical masks or N95 respirators (if available) during patient treatment. Both masks provide adequate protection from bacterial and viral infections.³ High-speed evacuation (use of 4 hands) is required for all aerosol-producing procedures. If a Clinician chooses to use an N95 mask, one N95 mask will be issued at the beginning of each day. As per CDC guidelines, masks can be used for multiple patient encounters as long as the mask is not touched [by contaminated hands] between patient encounters.⁴ If the mask needs to be removed and replaced during the day, follow the "donning" and "doffing" guidelines provided by the CDC.^{5,6}

At the end of the day, all clinical personnel (doctors, assistants, hygienists) will place their dirty scrubs into the washer. The Sterilization Tech Will Start the washer full of scrubs and before leaving each evening. The Sterilization Tech will need to move wet scrubs from the washer to the dryer the next morning before morning meeting.

References:

1. <https://success.ada.org/en/practice-management/patients/safety-and-clinical>
2. https://www.ada.org/~media/CPS/Files/COVID/ADA_COVID_Int_Guidance_Treat_Pts.pdf?utm_source=adaorg&utm_medium=covid-resources-lp&utm_content=cv-pm-ebd-interim-response&utm_campaign=covid-19
3. https://success.ada.org/~media/CPS/Files/COVID/ADA_Interim_Mask_and_Face_Shield_Guidelines.pdf?utm_source=cpsorg&utm_medium=covid-resources-lp-safety&utm_content=cv-safety-interim-maskfaceshield&utm_campaign=covid-19
4. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/face-masks.html>
5. <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html>
6. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cfw2tvjiCxM>