

# ***OFFICE MEASURES FOR PROTECTION OF PATIENTS AND STAFF***

We are implementing a variety of measures to make our dental office as safe as possible. These measures have been adopted from guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control, OSHA, American Dental Association, Washington State Dental Association, and Harris Biomedical infection control company. We know the office will look different to you. We are operating with an abundance of caution.

Here are some changes we have implemented:

## **INSIDE THE OFFICE**

- Front desk "sneeze screens" between front office staff and patients
- Removal of all touchable items, such as magazines
- Removal of all countertop items, including décor and other displays
- Removal of most chairs in the waiting room

## **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)**

- Face shields for dental assistants and hygienists (as warranted)
- N 95 masks or enhanced-fit Level III masks
- Surgical head caps

## **OFFICE DISINFECTION**

- Multiple air purification units to scrub the air of airborne infective agents
- Commercial cleaning company focusing on disinfection
- Added barriers within each operatory

## **AEROSOL CONTROLS**

- Each hygiene room will be equipped with "high vacuum" attachments to replace our standard "low-vacuum" systems.
- Interim cleaning of teeth will be done primarily using "hand scaling," with laser bacterial reduction if requested by patient.

## **PATIENT SAFE PRACTICES AND PROTOCOLS**

- Patients will be instructed to touch as few surfaces as possible.
- Patients will be encouraged to wear masks into and out of the office.
- We will integrate as much "teledentistry" as possible in our practice.
- All staff members and patients will be required to maintain 6-foot social distancing outside of the operatory.
- All patients will be screened twice (the day before the appointment and the day of the appointment), answering questions about whether there have been any symptoms of Covid-19 or exposure to others with the illness.

## **SCHEDULING FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING**

- **We will be adding 15 minutes between hygiene appointments in order to thoroughly clean and disinfect the operatories between appointments.**
- **We will add Fridays to our hygiene schedule in order to accommodate all of our patients as we add time between appointments.**
- **We are going to add more time between our restorative visits to minimize patient overlap in the office.**