

May 14, 2020

To All of Our Patients, Friends and Families:

Welcome back! We are excited that we will be able to resume caring for our patients. We hope that all of you have been safe during these unprecedented times. After a mandated shutdown by the state, we are ready to continue the level of care you have come to expect from us with some modifications necessary for the safety of the patients, staff and doctor.

First off, we will be having all patients or their guardians complete a screening form the day of the appointment (Covid Questionnaire). You can download it from our website in the "Patient Center", or we will have copies in the office. Please bring a pen if possible. Please do not fill out early as all information on the form applies to the **day of the appointment**. We would ask that only patients and guardians enter the office if no COVID 19 symptoms are present and there are no known exposures to anyone with the illness. We would ask that the patient and guardian wear a mask until the patient is brought back into the treatment area. Unfortunately, for your safety, for the immediate future there are no longer magazines, coffee or muffins in the waiting room to help prevent possible virus transmission. Additionally, we would ask unless special circumstances exist, only the patient is allowed into the treatment area. You are welcome to use the waiting room as long as social distancing can be followed, otherwise we ask that you wait in your vehicle.

Sterilization of instruments and workspace disinfection is nothing new for us so you won't see any differences there. We have always prided ourselves with meticulous infection control procedures. Also Dr. Newell has always removed the bonding adhesive by hand, only occasionally using a handpiece which could generate "aerosols". If it is necessary to use a high speed handpiece, it will be done in a private room with the appropriate PPE. This is rarely necessary, but if so we will have the equipment to keep everyone safe. We are basing infection control procedures based on current recommendations from the CDC, OSHA and the Department of Health.

Many of the things you are hearing about in the news may sound strange and scary to you regarding disease transmission, and in particular COVID 19. As a profession, dentistry has been successfully practicing in a safe manner for decades in a world that always has some threat of infectious disease present. We always utilize "Universal Precautions" which basically boils down to treating everyone as if they could have a contagious illness. We have an equal interest in keeping ourselves safe so we have always done whatever it takes to do so for the benefit of all. If you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to call the office first and I will be happy to answer them or arrange a time when I can do so.

Thanks and welcome back!

Dr. Newell