



To our valued patients,

Due to the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus), we wanted to take a minute to talk about what steps we are taking to keep our patients safe. As you know, the safety of our patients is our number one priority and with your help, we can minimize potential health risks associated with coronavirus.

It is important to realize that while the situation is very serious, for most people, the immediate risk of being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low. This virus is not currently widespread in the United States (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html>).

How are we protecting our patients?

Our dental offices are well-prepared to safely treat patients. We are currently screening our patients for any symptoms of illness. In addition, we regularly sterilize our instruments. We also disinfect the patient care area after each patient and change gloves and face masks for each patient as well.

We are asking our patients who show symptoms of being sick to not come to the office and to reschedule their appointment. They should also immediately contact their healthcare provider.

What are the symptoms of coronavirus? - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/symptoms.html>

Reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness for confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases.

The following symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure: fever, cough, or shortness of breath.

If you develop symptoms, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or have recently traveled from an area with widespread or ongoing community spread of COVID-19, call your doctor right away.

How does the virus spread?

Right now, medical experts think that COVID-19 spreads from person-to-person through a cough, sneeze or kiss. Scientists are still working to discover more about the transmission of the disease.

Prevention

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html>):

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Stay home when you are sick.

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. For information about handwashing, see CDC's Handwashing website - <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/>
If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
It's never too late to get the flu vaccine.

Treatment

There is no specific antiviral treatment recommended for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 should receive supportive care to help relieve symptoms. People who think they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider immediately.

As always, we appreciate you choosing our office. Rest assured we are doing everything we can to keep our patients and employees safe and we look forward to continuing to care for your dental health needs.