

## **COVID-19 Safety Plan for Sidney Centre Family Dentistry**

Our goal: to provide patients with comprehensive dental care in an environment that is safe for both staff and patients.

### **First Level Protection – Elimination**

- Goal - To limit the number of people in the office and promote physical distancing.
- Measures in place:
  - Stay 6 feet apart unless wearing a mask
  - Staggered work starts
  - Multiple break and lunch areas (3 separate designated areas)
  - Staggered lunch breaks
  - Maximum 2 people in each break room
  - Maximum 1 person in the lab area at a time unless masked
  - Maximum 2 people in the sterilization area at a time unless masked
  - Reduced number of chairs in the waiting room to decrease occupancy and allow 2m distance between patients
  - Limit the number of patients in the waiting room by requesting patients to:
    - Come at their appointment time, not early.
    - Come alone to their appointment, unless a caregiver/guardian is required.
    - Take a seat in the waiting room instead of lining up at the counter.
    - Use the chairs in the hallway if the waiting room chairs are occupied.
    - Be seated in the operatory as soon as it is ready.
  - Charts are brought to the reception area prior to appointment completion so there is reduced time for the patient in the waiting room.

### **Second Level Protection – Engineering Controls**

- Goal – Barriers and partitions in workplace when physical distancing is difficult to achieve.
- Measures in place:
  - Plexiglass separating the waiting room from the reception area.
  - Curtained off area in the clinic for staff water bottles, phones, etc.

### **Third Level Protection – Administrative Controls**

- Goal – To reduce transmission of infection.
- Measures in place:
  - Patient screening when booking, confirming and arriving at appointment. All patients answering yes to any screening questions must be rescheduled.
  - Removal of cloth chairs from waiting room, wipeable chairs added.
  - Removal of all magazines and toys from waiting room
  - Request all paperwork for patients be filled out in advance at home and emailed back to the office before their appointment.
  - Encourage electronic transactions instead of cash payments
  - Remove charts from the operatory prior to aerosol creation.
  - Cleaning and disinfecting protocol- standard universal infection control measures in place, including:
    - Wiping down operatories with germicide –all equipment, AW syringe, cords/hoses, light handles, dental and operator chairs, adjustment levers, X-ray head and button, X-ray apron (both sides), X-ray sensor cord, overhead light, cupboard knobs/handles, all counters, keyboard

and anything else touched on counters such as computer mouse, pens, fluoride dispenser and bottle.

- Flush water lines for 20 seconds between patients
- If aerosols are used, wipe down all the cupboard doors with disinfectant.
- Wash the outside of overhead light cover with soap and water each day
- Use transfer forceps to get items from operatory cupboard
- Do not allow patient contact in toothbrush/prize drawers
- Removal of all unnecessary objects from operatory countertops
- All sinks and high touch surfaces wiped with disinfectant routinely throughout day, including door knobs, reception counter, POS machine, waiting room chairs, and bathroom keys. At a minimum this is mid morning, lunch, mid afternoon and end of day.
- High volume suction must be used to reduce aerosols at source. Hygienists must only use hand instrumentation unless high volume suction available.
- Rubber dam to be used whenever possible
- Handwashing as per Office Exposure Plan
- Staff sickness policy - dental office staff must promptly report any symptoms of illness to Dr. Braun. Dental health care workers' ill with influenza-like illness (ILI) will be required to stay at home. If they develop symptoms of ILI while at work, they will be required to leave the workplace and should only return to the workplace when they have recovered from the ILI and no longer exhibit symptoms. As per BCCDC guidelines, anyone who has had symptoms of COVID-19 must self-isolate at home until testing is available.
- Follow all Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) principles

**Fourth Level Protection – Infection Control with PPE**

- Goal – Protection of workers and patients when physical distancing is not possible
- Minimum PPE requirements: (according to BCCDC and CDSBC)

Non chairside Clinic	Non-aerosol and aerosol chairside with patient not COVID + or suspected COVID	Aerosol chairside with COVID + or suspected COVID patient
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Surgical mask</li> </ul>	Universal precautions including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Surgical mask</li> <li>● Safety glasses</li> <li>● Gloves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Respirator or fit-tested N95</li> <li>● Safety glasses</li> <li>● Face shield</li> <li>● Gloves</li> <li>● Long sleeved gown</li> </ul>

- As per CDSBC and BCCDC guidelines posted May 15/20, "Where there is low incidence and prevalence of COVID-19, additional PPE over and above that required for normal precautions is not required"
- Our office recommendation is to use a fitted N95 or respirator with all aerosol procedures, and a level 2+ for any chairside non-aerosol procedures.
- Have dedicated work shoes or wear booties
- Safety glasses must be worn at all times when working chairside
- Don and doff PPE in separate areas
- Removal of PPE – order is: gloves, gown, eyewear, mask, with hand hygiene immediately after doffing
- Do not wear work clothes home- put them in a bag and launder after every shift.
- Shower when arriving home