



DENTISTRY

THIRTY TWO

Work Safe BC Safety Plan for Dentistry Thirty-Two

This Plan is informed by the best available scientific evidence and expert opinion available at this time and is subject to revision as additional information and data becomes available. Where evidence is lacking, recommendations err on the side of caution. As new evidence becomes available, the document will be updated accordingly.

Reception and Waiting Area

- We have minimized contact at reception by having a plexiglass screen for reception or encourage physical distancing and reception staff wear PPE.
 - o If one patient is paying for services, another patient will be no less than 2 meters away.
 - o Reception desk will be disinfected after patient contact.
 - o 2 patients may be in reception area at one time.
- **our staff will not** share pens, phone headsets, staplers, etc.
- Reduced seating in the waiting area, chairs are two metres (2m) apart.
- we have **Removed unnecessary items**. Remove magazines, brochures, toys, etc.
- **Clean and disinfect**. Clean surfaces with detergent or soap & water if visibly soiled, then proceed with disinfection. Disinfect touch surfaces frequently, including chairs, tables, door handles, light switches, clothes hangers, bathrooms and fixtures, staffroom surfaces, lab areas, etc.
- we are **Minimize the number of people at the office**. Only child and dependent (elderly or patients with disability) patients to be accompanied.
- **Prepare washrooms**. Post hand-washing instructions, ensure adequate supply of soap and disposable towels, make a trash can available. **WASHROOMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY- please use washroom prior to attending office**

Clinical Areas

- Sterilization room will be cleaned regularly with appropriate PPE.
- Only patients and necessary attendants allowed in clinical areas.

Common Staff Areas

- Encourage physical distancing.
- Disinfect touch surfaces often.

Receiving Deliveries

Minimize transmission risk with procedures:

- sanitizing the exterior of boxes delivered.
- sanitizing all surfaces that were touched by delivery items.
- 2 meters, no contact deliveries

Daily Staff Screening



DENTISTRY

THIRTY TWO

The health of the dental office staff is paramount and must be monitored for the continued health of the dental team. Daily staff screening focuses on this principle and includes a daily log confirming that they are not experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19. And recording temperatures.

Hand Hygiene

Strict staff hand hygiene is of paramount importance. Staff must wash or disinfect hands thoroughly:

- Upon entry into the dental office.
- Before and after any contact with patients.
- After contact with contaminated surfaces or equipment.
- In between procedures and after removing PPE depending on the procedure, following established PPE protocols.

Patient hand hygiene- Patients must wash or disinfect hands

- Upon entering the office
- After use of washroom
- Prior to start of any dental treatment
- After finish of dental treatment, prior to returning to reception area

Clothing and Office Environment

COVID-19 environment, all dental office staff will be wearing scrubs at work. Scrubs and shoes will be only worn in the office and will be put on when entering the office at the start of the day and removed at the office at the end of the day. In addition:

- Movement between the clinical area and the front office will be minimized.
- In the clinical areas:
 - Surfaces will be kept clear of items as much as possible.
 - keyboards, computer mice, etc. will be covered with clear plastic barriers and disinfected between patients.
 - we will be minimizing paperwork, and using electronic forms where ever possible.

Clearing the Air (of Aerosols)

Aerosol contaminants are removed in the following ways:

1. They settle out of the air and land on surfaces, then are cleaned with surface disinfectant.
2. They are evacuated and either removed from the space completely, by air exchange.

We will be adding two hospital grade Surgically Clean Air exchange units to our office. Until these units are installed, we are scheduling 30 min aerosol settling time between operatory room use and disinfection.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is a key line of defense for dental office staff in preventing



DENTISTRY

THIRTY TWO

infection. In a pandemic environment, all dental office staff should be using the appropriate PPE. The necessary PPE is indicated by the CDSBC, BCCDC and WorkSafeBC and it is based on the dental care being provided, or function in the dental office (e.g. reception, room cleaning, etc.). It is also based on the risk level for the patient as determined by the pre-appointment and appointment arrival screening.

- **Patient is not to be treated in office if screens positive for any Covid 19 risk factors.**

Setting	Staff	Procedure/Activity	PPE
Patient Room	Dentist/ Assistant/ Hygienist	Non aerosol generating procedure	- Mask - Face shield or goggles - Scrubs, - gloves - Optional Long sleeve gown
Patient Room	Dentist/ Assistant/ Hygienist	Aerosol Generating Procedure	- Mask - Face shield or goggles - Scrubs, - - gloves - Long sleeve gown
Patient Room	Disinfecting treatment rooms		- Mask - Face shield or goggles - Scrubs, - - gloves - Fresh Long sleeve gown
Reception	Front office staff		-Plexiglass screen or mask if not behind screen - scrubs

BEFORE THE APPOINTMENT

Before an appointment, the patient will be contacted, and a pre appointment screening completed. The purpose of the screening is to:

1. Determine the patient's risk level for being infected with COVID-19.
2. Determine if the patient falls into one of the vulnerable populations



DENTISTRY

THIRTY TWO

groups with respect to COVID-19.

3. Explain the changed office protocols to the patient.

DURING THE APPOINTMENT

When patients arrive: Patients to wait in car and notify office of arrival when ever possible

- Have patient wash hands (ideally) or disinfect hands with hand sanitizer.
- Complete patient arrival screening:
 - o Take patient's temperature and record result.
 - o If patient screening indicates "moderate" or "higher" risk, isolate patient and consult with dentist on next steps.
- Have patient complete and sign [Patient Acknowledgement of COVID-19 Risk Form](#) (see [Resources](#)) if not already completed.
- Ask patient to respect physical distancing with all staff and patients.
- Limit patient time in waiting room. Ideally, take the patient to the operatory immediately.

When patient is seated in operatory:

- Chair-side staff, wash hands and don mask and gloves before entering operatory.
- No hand-shaking or physical contact.
- Review overall health history, confirming that the screening questions were asked during the check-in procedure, and review if necessary.
- Remove mask only outside operatory.
- Limit movement out of operatory as much as possible.
- Clean operatory while wearing PPE.
- Wash hands after doffing PPE
- Ensure PPE is donned and doffed appropriately. Refer to resources on the BCCDC site: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/covid-19-care/infectioncontrol/personal-protective-equipment>

As the patient is leaving:

- Choose a touchless payment method, if possible.
- Have the patient wash or disinfect their hands before leaving the office.

Training and Implementation

All staff are trained in proper infection control and social distancing measures. We will be having daily meetings to address concerns and update protocols to align with changing regulations from Work Safe BC and The College of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia. A training plan is in place for any new staff members.

Safety Contact Person

Our safety contact person is Emily Russell, our office Manager. Any concerns from Staff, Patients or the public should be addressed to her. She can be reached at 604-380-3200, or email at info@dentistrythirtytwo.com