

West Jersey Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons main concern during the COVID-19 national health crisis continues to be the health and safety of our patients and staff. As we anticipate the reopening of the practice we have focused on a couple of key components to ensure the safety of our dental community.

We have placed an emphasis on continuing the training and educating of the staff:

- Proper hand washing techniques and proper placement, removal and disposal of PPE
- All staff will be screened and their temperatures will be taken daily
- Staff with symptoms or elevated temperature will isolate for 2 weeks
- Staff will be limiting their interactions with individual patients when necessary.

Although our excellent treatment and care will remain at its highest level, there will be a couple of changes in the office work flow to maximize patient safety.

- The schedule will allow for additional time per appointment to achieve the CDC's recommended guidelines for disinfection between patients.
- The schedule will be extended to accommodate patients in need of urgent care.
- Appointments will be staggered to allow for appropriate check in and check out minimizing patient to patient proximity.
- All patients who develop or present with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or a temperature of 99.5 F will be rescheduled and referred to their primary care provider.

When you arrive at the office you may notice a few changes

- Reception seating will be spaced out 6 ft to accommodate social distancing.
- All items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected have been removed from the waiting room.
- We ask that all patients cleanse with provided hand sanitizer when entering the reception area.
- Our staff will be disinfecting all common touch points around the office at regular intervals.
- Patients will call the office from the parking lot upon arrival and will be given instructions as to when to proceed to the reception area. In an effort to comply with social distancing we request that only one person accompany you to the reception area if necessary.
- Protective barriers are set up at the checkout window to limit contact.
- HVAC filters have been upgraded to meet CDC recommendations.
- Additional standalone air purifiers using UV light / HEPA filters will placed throughout the office.

Once settled in the office

-Hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette will be displayed throughout the office to ensure staff and patient safety.

- Patient's will be screened by the surgical team and a wellness questionnaire will be completed.

- Patients are taken to exam rooms / operatories as promptly as possible.

- Rooms will be sanitized following CDC guidelines.

-High volume suction devices will be used during aerosol generating procedures markedly reducing aerosolization.

Clinical Staff

-Appropriate hand hygiene in between each patient and before and after doffing and donning personal protective equipment (PPE).

-All equipment is cleaned with appropriate disinfectants per CDC guidelines.

-CDC recommended PPE will be worn for every surgical patient including appropriate masks, gloves, eye protection, face shield and surgical gowns and caps.

-High demand for PPE due to the coronavirus pandemic has resulted in a drastic increase in cost. In order to avoid an across the board increase in our surgical fees, all surgical patients are subject to a \$23 PPE fee.

We thank you in advance and extend our gratitude for your understanding and cooperation. Together, we can help keep everyone as safe and healthy as possible. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office, and one of our staff members will be more than happy to assist you

For further information, including measures to keep yourself healthy, visit the following links:

- Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html>
- Symptoms: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/symptoms.html>
- Steps When Sick: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/steps-when-sick.html>