

CDC COVID-19 Summary

Masks/face coverings are required for everyone entering your office (e.g., staff and patients) regardless of whether they are asymptomatic or symptomatic.

Actively screen staff and patients for fever and symptoms BEFORE they enter the office.

- For staff, document absence of COVID symptoms (e.g., no fever, cough, or SOB) each day at beginning of every shift.

CDC Recommendations

- Postpone elective surgeries and non-urgent dental visits. Only see emergency patients.
- Stay home if sick. Allow staff flexibility without punitive action to stay home if symptomatic of respiratory infection. Send staff members home if they become sick at work.
- Telescreen all patients before scheduled appointments. If patient reports symptoms, delay dental care until patient has recovered.
- Use teledentistry for all emergency dental concerns to determine if immediate dental care is needed. If possible, provide patient with home care and any appropriate pharmaceuticals to manage dental condition at home.

If emergency patient presents with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 symptoms:

Defer dental treatment unless dental emergency.

If dental care emergency is medically necessary, the procedure must be completed in a negative pressure area with a N95 filtering disposable respirator. The procedure should be completed in a hospital or facility that has the appropriate precautions.

If emergency patient presents without COVID-19 symptoms:

Avoid aerosol generating procedures (e.g., handpieces, air/water syringe) and ultrasonic tools. Prioritize minimally invasive techniques (i.e., use hand instruments only).

If aerosol procedures are necessary for emergency care, use four-handed dentistry, high evacuation suction, and dental dams to minimize droplet splatter.

Use the following materials and guidelines to meet CDC health and sanitation requirements:

Masks	<p>Put on N95 respirator or Surgical masks with face shield before entering patient room. Remove and discard AFTER leaving patient room.</p> <p>During aerosol procedures (i.e., procedures using dental handpieces, air/water syringe, or ultrasonic tools), N95 or PAPRs, or elastomeric respirators are recommended. Surgical masks with face shields are not recommended for aerosol procedures.</p>
Eyewear	<p>Put on goggles or face shields before entering patient room. Remove and disinfect AFTER leaving patient room.</p> <p>Personal eyeglasses are not considered adequate eye protection.</p>
Gloves	<p>Put on clean, non-sterile gloves before entering patient room. Remove and discard BEFORE leaving patient room, and immediately perform hand hygiene.</p>
Gowns	<p>Put on clean isolation gown before entering the patient room. Remove and discard BEFORE leaving room.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If disposable, discard after each use. • If cloth, launder after each use. <p>If short on gowns, you should prioritize gown usage for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerosol-generating procedures • Procedures where splashes and sprays are anticipated

Trainings

Provide job-specific staff training on PPE, and have staff demonstrate competency with PPE selection and proper use of the following:

- When to use PPE and which is necessary
- How to properly don, use, and doff PPE to prevent self-contamination
- How to properly dispose of or disinfect and maintain PPE
- What the limitations of PPE are
- When, how, and where cloth face coverings can be used
- How to launder cloth face coverings and when to replace



Post Care Exposure Guidelines

The CDC recommends that your office contact all emergency patients who received care within 48 hours after their treatment. Your office should ask patients if they display any signs/symptoms of COVID-19. If symptomatic, refer the patient to their medical provider.