

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO REQUIREMENTS IN DENTAL PRACTICE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Per the [Public Health Officer \(PHO\) Order](#), dentists shall:

- ✓ Preserve and prioritize resources.
- ✓ Authorize and perform non-emergent or elective surgeries or procedures **based on clinical need and supply capacity, and where consistent with State guidance.**
- ✓ Require all non-clinical employees to wear face coverings.
- ✓ Screen temperatures of all employees and prohibit entry of those with a temperature of 100 degrees or more or exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.

If an employee is diagnosed with COVID-19:

- ✓ Promptly notify Public Health Services (PHS) at **888-950-9905**. Have the following ready: employee name, date of birth, and contact information.
- ✓ Cooperate with PHS to identify and provide contact information for any persons exposed by employee at the workplace.
- ✓ Provide notice of exposure to any employees and contractors who may have been exposed.

Per the [California Department of Public Health](#) (CDPH), dental practitioners must follow the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's](#) (CDC's) guidance for:

- ✓ Engineering controls,
- ✓ Work practices, and
- ✓ Infection control measures.

PRIORITIES:

- Patients and dental healthcare personnel (DHCP) with **suspected or confirmed COVID-19** and those with **potential COVID-19 exposure** should not enter the dental office.
- Provide treatment only after consideration of risk to patient to defer care and to DHCP and patients in transmission of COVID-19.
- Ensure appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and supplies. If limited, **prioritize** dental care for the highest need, most vulnerable patients first.



PATIENT MANAGEMENT:

- Screen all patients for COVID-19 symptoms or contact prior to scheduling treatment.
- Re-screen all patients for fever, symptoms, or exposure to COVID-19 prior to entering facility.
- Ensure compliance with 6 feet of separation, including in the waiting room.
- Ensure adherence to face coverings, hand hygiene, and cough etiquette.
- Limit visitors accompanying patient to only those necessary.



ENGINEERING CONTROLS:

- Properly maintain ventilation systems.
- Provide treatment in individual patient rooms, as possible.
- For dental facilities with open floor plans, space patient chairs at least 6 feet apart, install physical barriers between patient chairs, and place operatories parallel to direction of airflow, as possible.
- Place patient's head near return air vents and away from pedestrian corridors, as possible.
- Account for time required to clean and disinfect operatories between patients when calculating patient volume.
- If aerosol generating procedures are necessary, use four-handed dentistry, high evacuation suction, respirators, and dental dams (as possible).



WORK PRACTICES AND PPE:

- Adhere to Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions.
- Avoid aerosol generating procedures, as possible, including use of high-speed dental handpieces, air/water syringe, and ultrasonic scalers.
- During procedures likely to generate splashing or spattering of blood or other body fluids, **wear eye protection, gloves, and gown, and a respirator (N95 or better) for aerosol generating procedures or surgical mask and face shield for non-aerosol generating procedures.**



INFECTION CONTROLS:

- Maintain at least 6 feet between people by rearranging seating and scheduling appointments to minimize number of people in waiting room.
- Clean and disinfect room and equipment according to Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings and using Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved products.
- Manage laundry and medical waste in accordance with routine policies and procedures.

