What to Expect for Dental Visits

The effects of COVID-19 have impacted every sector of our daily lives, including your future dental visits. Even though there has been a lot of change, dental professionals have and remain committed to your oral health, as well as the health and safety of their patients, staff, and community. Under guidance by CDC, Public Health, and the ADA, dentistry has always been a leader in infection control. Dental offices will continue these infection control practices to ensure all standards are met to keep patients and staff safe.

The next time you go to the dentist, you may have a new experience. Below are some examples of what to expect prior to your next dental appointment.

* Scheduling a Visit
	+ Appointments will be managed through social distancing. That might mean that there are fewer appointment options.
	+ Some offices may delay more invasive procedures for a while.
* Pre-Appointment Screening
	+ This screening will focus on whether you’ve had any COVID-19 symptoms such as a fever, cough or been in contact with anyone with COVID-19. This screening will help your dentist determine if you can safely come to the office.
* Day of dental visit screening
	+ You should expect similar pre-appointment screening questions on the day of your dental visit.
	+ Some dental offices may ask that your screening take place in their parking lot, right outside of the office, or as soon as you enter the office.
	+ You may be asked to take your temperature.
	+ Many offices will ask that you wear a mask while in the office. If you have a mask, please bring it with you.
* Dental office waiting rooms will look different
	+ Waiting rooms will have less chairs and spaced out to ensure proper social distancing.
	+ Waiting rooms will be cleared of child toys and magazines as those items are difficult to keep clean and disinfect.
	+ Hand sanitizer will likely be available.
	+ Offices want to minimize people in the waiting room – so try to leave those home that aren’t a part of the actual dental visit.
* During your dental visit
	+ If you have any questions or concerns, be sure to ask those of the dentist and the rest of the dental staff.
	+ The dental staff will assure that all infection control procedures are used during your appointment. Many dental staff including the front desk staff may be in face shields, gowns and head coverings.
* After your dental visit
	+ If you feel any COVID-19 symptoms or you have a COVID-19 diagnosis within 14 days of seeing your dentist, please call the dental office to let them know.

Together we are all part of the solution to keep you and your community safe and healthy.