

COVID–19 Preparedness Plan

Wahl Family Dentistry

Last updated: January 5, 2021

The following COVID–19 Preparedness Plan includes and describes how Wahl Family Dentistry implements the following:

1. Infection prevention measures;
2. Prompt identification and isolation of sick persons;
3. Engineering and administrative controls for social distancing;
4. Housekeeping, including cleaning, disinfecting and decontamination;
5. Communications and training for managers and workers necessary to implement the plan; and
6. Provision of management and supervision necessary to ensure effective ongoing implementation of the plan.

Wahl Family Dentistry is committed to providing a safe and healthy facility for our patients and staff. To ensure this, we have developed the following Preparedness Plan in response to the COVID–19 pandemic. Our goal is to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID–19 within our workplaces using the full cooperation of our staff. Through this cooperative effort, we have established and are maintaining safety and promoting health at Wahl Family Dentistry.

Screening and policies for staff and patients exhibiting signs and symptoms of COVID–19

Even before COVID–19, our policy for all staff-members regarding illness was to self-monitor, and stay home if they had signs of illness. COVID–19 is no different in this respect. In addition to our staff staying home and self-monitoring, we are also asking all patients exhibiting signs and symptoms during the COVID–19 pandemic to reschedule after a quarantine period of 10-14 days, and are providing patients with the flexibility to easily do so. We are in constant communication with our staff about what the evolving symptoms of the COVID–19 virus are, and are working with our staff to clearly communicate these symptoms to our patients so they know what symptoms they should be attentive of. Any person within Wahl Family Dentistry, whether it be a patient or staff-member, communicating a self-monitored symptom will be sent home. The following policies and procedures are being implemented to assess workers' health status prior to entering the workplace and for workers to report when they are sick or experiencing symptoms.

Wahl Family Dentistry has implemented screening measures for patients and staff. Patients are asked about any symptoms they may be experiencing. If patients are exhibiting any symptoms of COVID–19, their appointment is postponed for a minimum of 14 days. If they exhibit a fever of 100.4 or more upon their temperature check, their appointment will be cancelled, and they will be sent home. Staff are required to have a temperature check daily when they check into work and are sent home if they exhibit a fever of 100.4 or more. They are required to answer daily the same screening questionnaire that we are asking our patients. Staff are also required to report promptly any contact with a suspected or confirmed COVID–19 case.

Wahl Family Dentistry has also implemented a policy for informing patients or staff if they have been exposed to a person with COVID–19 at our office requiring them to quarantine for the required amount of time. Should a staff member become diagnosed with COVID–19, all patients seen by that staff member would be notified of potential exposure. In addition, we continue strict adherence to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, (HIPAA) to protect the privacy, health status and health information of both our patients and our staff.

Infection Prevention

Stringent infection prevention measures are being implemented at Wahl Family Dentistry at all times. Patients and staff are instructed to wash their hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer frequently throughout the day, with special attention paid to handwashing before and after each dental appointment, any breaks and after using the toilet. Wahl Family Dentistry uses hospital grade disinfectants to sanitize all work surfaces between every appointment, and patients are provided facilities with soap and water or sanitizers with greater than 70% alcohol.

During any aerosol generating procedure, staff are to wear face shields and/or goggles and a mask. All PPE is to be changed regularly, as well as when soiled or after aerosol generating procedures. Hand hygiene is to be performed after taking PPE off and before putting on new PPE.

Engineering controls are to be introduced to minimize aerosol generation and maximize its recapture. High volume suction is to be utilized wherever possible.

Housekeeping

Stringent housekeeping practices are being implemented, we are providing staff with extra time to clean and disinfecting all work surfaces and equipment, as well as areas open to the public, including waiting room, front desk and bathroom. Frequent attention towards cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch areas, such as chairs and armrests, counters, phones, keyboards, touch screens,

controls, door handles, will also be conducted on an ongoing basis using our EPA hospital grade disinfectant or disinfectants containing greater than 70% alcohol.

Respiratory etiquette

Visitors are required to wear masks when entering and exiting Wahl Family Dentistry, and asked to cover their mouth and nose with their sleeve or a tissue when coughing or sneezing and to avoid touching their face, in particular their mouth, nose and eyes, with their hands. They should dispose of tissues in the trash and wash or sanitize their hands immediately afterward. Disposable surgical masks are available for patients' use at the front office. Respiratory etiquette will be demonstrated as required by staff with tissues and trash receptacles readily available for this purpose to all visitors and staff. All staff members are required to wear masks all day long except when eating or drinking.

Social distancing

The office design of separated individual patient rooms allow for the most isolation during treatment. Patients can contact us by phone when they arrive for their appointments and wait in their cars until we are ready. No companions are allowed in the facility except 1 guardian for a minor patient. Large plexiglass shields have been added to the front office area to maintain separation between front office staff and patients entering the facility. Patient forms are available online to be prefilled prior to the scheduled appointment.

Communications and training

This Preparedness Plan was communicated to our staff and put into motion before we reopened from the government ordered COVID-19 closure and our staff was trained accordingly.

Additional communication and training will be ongoing as we continually reevaluate the situation, and how effective our response to the situation has been. We will continue to update our response as necessary.

General

- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV
- www.osha.gov

Infection Prevention

- www.cdc.gov/handwashing/when-how-handwashing.html
- www.cdc.gov/handwashing

Respiratory etiquette:

- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html
- www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/etiquette/coughing_sneezing.html

Social distancing

- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html

Housekeeping

- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html
- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/disinfecting-your-home.html
- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html

Employees exhibiting signs and symptoms of COVID-19

- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html

Training

- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-small-business.html
- www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf