

Hello Family! We miss you all and are excited to “begin” the process towards normalcy in the dental office. At the same time we know that “normal” may not happen for a long time and we are going to be adapting accordingly.

We have been working with the Washington state dental association and ADA and evaluating the situation and now feel confident that most dental procedures are safe and warranted. Of course, we want to take extra precautions and are actually going beyond what the WSDA is recommending and most other dental offices are doing for extra safety. We are concerned about your care and our staff safety as well. Here is a partial list of how we are taking extra precautions:

- We will wear face shields to block extra aerosol from the patient
- Shields will be placed on the lights that will keep splatter down.
- Suctions (Isodry) will be placed in patients mouth which continually pull aerosols in.
- We are switching to stronger and more effective masks and using “mask fitter” technology to seal spaces around the mask.
- We are asking patients to use hand sanitizer as they enter and leave.
- We are asking patients to enter through the front of the building and leave out the back.
- We will be using infrared thermometers to check patient and staff temperatures (will arrive by end of the month).
- We have ordered elective air filtration systems that use industrial suctioning to pull down aerosols from the operatory and filter out contaminants.
- We have electively hired Harris Biomedical consulting to audit our systems and offer advice on how to maintain safety.
- We will be asking patients questions for health considerations before booking and may ask certain demographics to stay home for a period of time (medically compromised, elderly, etc).
- We will have patients fill out forms online or in the operatory or in their car so the waiting room is essentially open at all times
- We may ask patients to wait outside if a line forms at the front and/or knock before entering the building.
- We are installing plexiglass barriers in the front office and in between operatories for separation.
- We may postpone certain parts of our cleanings (using the cavitron, which sprays water and/or polishing the teeth for instance).
- We may postpone other restorative procedures that can be delayed safely as appropriate.
- Allowing patients to cancel without fee if they have any questionable symptoms.
- Doing our best to stagger patients in operatories that are not adjacent next to each other.
- We are tentatively opening M-Th. 7-3 and will re-evaluate the schedule in a month.

We have already been partially open during the entire COVID season for urgent care. This has confirmed the fact that dentistry is not truly elective. We see patients every week who are swollen and have tears in their eyes from dental infection. So we know there’s a balancing game here. We are doing our best to be a bit “over aggressive” for safety for a season while also knowing that dental care is a huge part of overall health. As the governor and ADA change the recommendations we will also adapt and are hopeful that some of the more aggressive steps we are taken can be relaxed as appropriate. But for

now, we feel we have gone above and beyond the recommendations to ensure everyone's health and peace of mind.