

Viruses, Where do we stand (1960s to present)?

Influenza A,B,C,D

H1N1 Swine flu

H5N1 Bird flu

HIV/AIDS

Flu Pandemic "Hong Kong flu"

Asian Flu

SARS, which was also caused by a coronavirus in 2003.

MRSA (bacterial infection)

So it seems like viruses and bacteria have always been around and most likely they will be around in the future, it's a never ending battle. Good news that the human race has been able to identify and address every single one of the ones mentioned above within the last 40-50 years, no doubt COVID-19 (another type of coronavirus will be handled as well). Dentistry has been through many infection control guideline changes and requirements over the years. Viruses and bacteria are what we deal with every day, in and out.

What about the new Coronavirus?

With so many stories surfacing social media and news, it's understandable to be concerned about the new coronavirus that causes COVID-19. Please know that the precautions we take every day to prevent the spread of infection in our practice also helps prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In light of the growing concern we would like to share a few things that we practice in our office patient after patient. There is so much that we do on a daily basis to adhere to the ADA and CDC guidelines that we can refer you to their sites for more detail; however, if you have any specific questions feel free to ask us.

We take pride in all the things we do to keep ourselves and patients safe and we take this opportunity to highlight some of those precautions that said there is always room for improvement.

Your health and happiness are paramount to us and we are committed to monitoring the situation, communicating with you and doing anything we can to help with this situation. This is a team effort, our team and

you/patient/parent so we also ask you to help us in this journey and meet your end as well so we can bring this virus to its knees.

What is our team doing?

. All clinical areas including chairs, countertops, handles, hoses get wiped after each patient. We use CaviCide in the form of spray and wipes. CaviCide is effective against TB, HBV, HCV, Viruses (including COVID-19) , Bacteria and Fungi...

. We also use blue barrier tapes and sleeves on screens and highly touched surfaces which are removed and replaced after each patient's visit followed by CaviCide wipes.

. All of our instruments are sterilized after each patient in pouches with indicators in Autoclaves that reach and maintain a temperature of 121°C and 132° or 249.8°F and 270° for at least 30min by using saturated steam under at least 15psi of pressure. Increased cycle time maybe applied depending upon the make-up and volume of the load.

. Many Items used during procedures are single use only and are properly disposed of after each patient.

. Hands are washed before and after each patient.

. Hand sanitizers (found effective against COVID-19) are stationed all around the office.

What we will do more:

. Disinfect more around the office including front desk counter, door knobs, chairs, in the waiting room more frequently.

. Remove all magazines from the magazine rack.

. Remove the children's play station in the waiting room.

. Give stickers to children vs. treasure box picks.

What we ask you:

. If you or your child begin to develop cold and flu like symptoms or become ill, take care of yourself and minimize the spread to others by staying home. We will be more than happy to reschedule your appointment. If you think you may have symptoms of coronavirus, call your healthcare provider right away.

.Use our sanitizers all through the office before entering our treatment rooms and after leaving the operatory rooms.

. Our busiest times are after school and early mornings. Our admin team will guide you through booking your appointment to minimize the number of people in the office at a time. And please arrive on time for your appointment.

Having said all this we are constantly monitoring CDC, WHO, and ADA websites and will bring you the most updated info.

For more information regarding COVID-19 please visit the following website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/events-as-they-happen>

<https://ada.com/conditions/covid-19/>

<https://www.mouthhealthy.org/en/az-topics/i/infection-control>