

Standard Operating Procedure: Monitoring Temperatures COVID-19

Developed By	Clinical Operations
Audience	All Team Members
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I. Purpose

The dental practices affiliated with North American Dental Group strive to provide regular and emergent oral healthcare for all patients. As the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic evolves in the U.S., we must ensure our practices remain in clean and safe environments. Due to heightened concerns, all patients and visitors must have their temperatures checked upon entering the practice to help protect our patients and team members from potential exposure.

II. Procedure

For all patients, team members, and guests (when appropriate) entering the practice, a *temporal thermometer* must be used to take the individual's temperature.

1. A designated team member is to meet everyone at the entrance door with the thermometer, check temperature and then allow entry, if no elevated temperature.
2. This same designated team member is to inform guests of patients that they should remain in their vehicle to help protect our patients and team members from potential exposure.

Taking Temperature:

1. Brush hair away if covering the forehead or ear
2. Place probe FLAT on forehead, depress button and KEEP DEPRESSED until you are done
3. Slide slowly STRAIGHT across forehead, to the temporal area NOT down the side of the face
4. Lift probe from forehead and touch neck just behind the ear lobe, or the "perfume spot"
5. Remove, read and record temperature

Determine Temperature Range to Identify if Fever is Present:

1. What is a normal temperature?
 - a. Normal body temperature is about 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit. However, body temperatures often vary from 1 to 2 degrees, and are typically lower in the morning and increase during the day. It reaches its high in the late afternoon or evening.
 - i. If a patient has a temperature above 100.4 degrees, retake
 - ii. If the second reading is also above 100.4 degrees, it is considered a confirmed fever and then, the following steps are required:
 1. For patients:
 - a. Ask patient if they are in pain
 - b. If in pain, work to alleviate patient's pain

- c. Work with doctor of the practice for their judgement on the care to proceed
 - d. For routine treatment that is not urgent, please reschedule the patient for at least 14 days out
 - e. In either situation, recommend the patient to nearby hospital for evaluation
2. For team members:
 - a. Instruct them to self-quarantine and seek medical care if symptoms continue
 - b. Team members are not allowed to work with elevated temperatures
- iii. If a guest or team member declines to allow us to take their temperature, respectfully ask them to remain outside the practice due to the necessity of protecting our patients and team members from potential exposure.

Cleaning the Temporal Thermometer:

1. Place on a pair of gloves
2. Hold thermometer upside-down to prevent excess moisture from entering the sensor area. If it becomes too wet, you will be unable to take a temperature until it dries
3. Use a cotton tipped Q-tip dampened with alcohol, or use an alcohol swab to surround the Q-tip
4. Swirl the Q-tip deep into the center of the probe and let dry
5. Clean after every use