

		Aerosol Procedures	Non-Aerosol Procedures
PPE Recommendations	N95 respirator masks	X	
	Full face shields	X	X
	Full arm gowns	X	
	Surgical face masks	X	X
	Eye protection	X	X
	Gloves	X	X
	Rubber dams	X	
	High volume suction tips	X	
	Patient surgical masks in non-treatment areas	X	X
	Patient eye protection	X	X
Patient bibs/aprons	X	X	
Infection Control - Enhanced Cleaning	Treatment rooms	X	X
	Dental equipment	X	X
	More frequent handwashing	X	X
	Signage asking all guests to wash hands	X	X
	Patients rinse with hydrogen peroxide	X	X
	Workstations	X	X
	Patient check-in areas	X	X
	Waiting area chairs	X	X
Social Distancing Measures	Patient schedules spaced out	X	X
	6-foot chair spacing in non-treatment areas	X	X
	No guests in waiting area	X	X
Screening Protocol	Questionnaires at check-in	X	X
	Temperature checks outside	X	X
	TeleDentistry appointments	X	X

These guidelines were developed by the PDA, and based on ADA and CDC recommendations. Guidelines are subject to change as updates are recommended by governing bodies.

The Professional Dental Alliance (PDA) with guidance from our Dental Advisory Board (DAB) has established updated Safety Standards as of April 24th, 2020 in response to COVID-19 safety management.

The updated Safety Standards are designed to protect our team members and patients by utilizing proper PPE, enhanced infection control measures, and adhering to social distancing regulations across the country. These guidelines were developed based on Aerosol-production during procedures and are intended to provide direction on how to minimize risks.

Aerosol producing procedures:

- Any procedure requiring the use of a high-speed handpiece
- Any procedure requiring the use of a cavitron or any other similar ultrasonic handpiece
- See list of procedures below

Recommendations for Dental Hygiene

Use of ultrasonic instruments should be limited as much as possible. Hygienists should use their professional judgement for appropriate cases such as periodontal scaling and root planning, based on patient needs. When ultrasonic instruments are used, clinicians should use proper hi-speed suction and/or four handed dentistry if available.

To ensure your comfort and safety:

- Obtain approval from both the hygienist and doctor
- Continue to utilize gowns, N-95 respirators, and face shields during Dental Hygiene appointments

PPE Recommendations

N-95/KN95 Masks: All providers to wear a respirator mask while performing aerosol producing procedures. One (1) N-95 respirator mask per provider per day (unless contaminated or soiled), with a fresh Level 1-3 surgical face mask worn over the N-95 for each patient. The N-95 respirator masks are not required for non-aerosol producing procedures or Front Office team members.

Full Face Shields: All providers to wear a face shield during aerosol producing procedures. The face shields are non-disposable and should be wiped with proper sterilization wipes between patients. Depending on the type, the visor portion may need to be replaced daily. Full face shields are not required for non-aerosol producing procedures but recommended as an added measure of protection.

Full Arm Gowns: All providers to wear a new full arm gown for a patient having an aerosol producing procedure. Full arm gowns are not required for non-aerosol producing procedures or Front Office team members. Washable gowns should be disinfected with disinfectant spray (preferred when available) or disinfect wipes at the end of aerosol producing procedures. Clinical judgment should be used on when to change gowns as needed if soiled. These gowns should be washed no less than once per day.

Surgical Face Masks: All providers to wear a new surgical face mask for every procedure. The mask would have to be changed after every patient. Surgical face masks should also be worn by Front Office team members. In addition, all patients are to be offered a surgical face mask in non-treatment rooms if they do not arrive with one. To minimize potential exposure within the practice, it is very important that team members adhere to the Safety Standards and consistently wear a face mask even while in the break room.

Eye Protection: All providers to wear eye protection for every procedure. The eye protection would be non-disposable and would have to be sterilized with a wipe after every patient procedure. In addition, all patients would have to wear eye protection for every procedure.

Gloves: All providers to wear a new set of gloves for every procedure and changed as needed.

Rubber Dam: Recommended during aerosol producing procedures to minimize aerosol exposure.

High Volume Suction Tips: All providers to use high volume suction tips for every aerosol producing procedures.

Patient Bibs/Aprons: All patients to get an apron or bib to wear for every procedure.

List of Aerosol and Non-Aerosol Producing Procedures

Procedures	Aerosol-Producing	Non-Aerosol Producing
Hygiene – Using Ultrasonic	X	
Hygiene – Hand scaling		X
Exam – Limited/ER/Consult		X
Exam – Comprehensive		X
Composite – Prep/Bonding	X	
Composite – Adjustment/Postop	Yes, if handpiece is used	
Crown and Bridge – Prep	X	
Crown and Bridge – Seat	Yes, if handpiece is used	
Crown and Bridge – Adjustment/Postop	Yes, if handpiece is used	
Removable – Impressions		No, unless handpiece used
Removable – Delivery		No, unless handpiece used
Removable – Adjustment/Postop		No, unless handpiece used
Endodontics – Treatment	X	
Endodontics – Consult/Postop		X
Oral Surgery – Extractions	X	
Oral Surgery – Grafting/Implants	X	
Oral Surgery – Consult/Postop		X
Orthodontics – Bonding	X	
Orthodontics – Debonds	X	
Orthodontics – Checks		No, unless handpiece used
Orthodontics – Consult/Postop		X

Infection Control – Enhanced Cleaning Protocols

We are implementing enhanced cleaning protocols, utilizing sterilization wipes, liquid sprays and related equipment to sterilize all the following after every patient visit:

- Treatment rooms
- Dental equipment inside and outside the rooms
- All non-dental surfaces inside the rooms
- Workstations
- Patient check-in and check-out areas, i.e. wipe all high touch areas patients may touch
- Reception-area chairs

We are also encouraging frequent handwashing by all team members and adding signage to our offices asking our guests to also wash hands when they enter our facility.

Social Distancing Measures and Screening Protocols

We are implementing additional guidelines to adhere to social distancing protocols:

- Allow additional time for each procedure so we can perform our new enhanced cleaning protocols after every patient visit.
- All common area chairs outside of treatment rooms have 6-foot spacing.
- We are asking our patients not to wait in the reception areas. Instead, we will direct them to come in from outside the office directly in to the operatory.
- Covid-risk questionnaire given to every patient at check-in.
- All team members and patients are to have their temperature checked prior to entering the office.
- Provide TeleDentistry consults for those patients who prefer to stay at home for basic consult or post-operative appointments.