

To All our Valued Patients:

Your overall health as well as the health of your family and our community are our primary concern especially during this world wide COVID -19 pandemic.

We have always meticulously followed all Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines as well as OSHA guidelines following Standardized Universal Precautions of sterilization and disinfection of the entire facility, equipment, instrumentation as well as following strict protocol for our care providers utilizing Personal Protective Equipment. This emergent time should be no different as we always followed the recommended guidelines for your safety as well as the safety of our staff and care providers. Even so, there have been additional recommendations by the CDC that pertain specifically to the COVID -19 pandemic we are all facing that relate to limitation of possible incidental exposure community wide as well as containment when necessary. Our practice is consulting the CDC website daily and staying updated and implementing all pertinent recommendations for the safety of all.

As of now, we will remain open during our usual business hours Monday-Thursday 8:30am -5:00pm specifically for urgent and emergency dentistry. Please be aware there will be limitations of availability for routine dental hygiene appointments until the CDC(Center for Disease Control) alters it's recommendations that it is safe for all involved to provide and receive what is deemed at this time to be non-essential care. We urge you to call our office if you are experiencing any oral/dental issues or have any questions as we can schedule a telecommunications appointment with Dr. Smolinski if a physical examination is not necessarily required. Our staff will be happy to help you with that. **Office Phone number: 941-766-9156**

Keep in mind that part of our consideration is to keep you away from any type of oral/dental health related emergency that would end you up in a crowded emergency room or physicians practice where exposure to COVID -19 could be more likely. For this reason, as oral/dental disease that remains untreated will worsen. The result will be greater pain, advancement of an infection and will potentially weaken the immune system. A weaker immune system then will make you more vulnerable to pathogens such as COVID-1. Taking care of active oral/dental disease in a safe and cautious environment will limit your risk to your health as well as your expenditures.

For your safety we will be **adding** the following to our usual meticulous protocol:

- All Staff are being monitored multiple times daily for symptoms or possible exposure to COVID-19 beginning before they even leave for work in the morning.
- The access to our office will be limited to patients who have scheduled appointments in advance only. Upon arrival to our parking lot, they will need to call the office to be given admittance after screening procedures are confirmed by a protected staff member. The doors are locked and access will be denied to all others.

- All patients will have their temperatures taken upon entering our practice. Anyone with a temperature equal to or greater than 100°F will not be able to be seen and be recommended to call either their physician or emergency room and to self-isolate themselves until then.
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- CDC recommended screening questions will also be asked and recorded in the patients record.
- All patients entering our practice will also be given hand sanitizer to disinfect their hands. We have a “NO TOUCH DOOR KNOB” POLICY in effect where a protected staff member will be opening and closing all doors for our patients admittance and dismissal.
- Even the air in the office will be disinfected regularly with Lysol professional grade disinfection spray.
- Additionally, we will have essential oil air diffusers with essential oils that are known and proven to be natural disinfectants strategically placed throughout the office.
- All common office spaces and surfaces will be disinfected periodically throughout the day for your safety, as well, in addition to the complete sterilization and disinfection of each operatory between every patient (which is our standard protocol every day).
- All patients will be given antimicrobial mouth rinse before all procedures.
- We will do everything possible to limit your exposure to other patients by getting you into a sterilized and disinfected treatment room as soon as you enter the office as much as possible, even if there may be a bit to wait before entering the office to limit that potential exposure. As such we will be allowing only 1 patient to enter the practice at a time. No other guests/ family members or friends will be given admittance. (Exceptions for children, handicapped or otherwise compromised individuals who may need the assistant of a parent or other care provider will be allowed with prior notification)

The safety and well-being of our patients, their families, our staff and our community will always be our primary concern. We will continue to monitor the status of COVID-19 nationally and within our community and keep you up-to-date regarding our plans to reinstate our usual business practices.

I urge you to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We can be reached by phone at 941-766-9156 or email us at drsmolinski@teleoservices.com.

Wishing everyone Health, Well Being and Blessings,

-Dr. Donna L. Smolinski and Staff