

May 2021

Dear Valued Patients,

What a year!! I hope this letter finds you and your family happy and healthy.

We know that everyone has been through a lot over the past year as a result of the COVID virus, and we are all looking forward to resuming our previous routines.

One thing that will has not changed is our commitment to keep you and your family safe and comfortable during your appointment. We will continue to adhere to the strictest infection control guidelines and make adjustments as necessary. Patient safety is our highest priority. We are happy to report that dental offices are extremely safe. The following article is from the daily journal from the American Dental Association (ADA): In an opinion piece for the Bangor (ME) Daily News (9/22), Dr. Jonathan Shenkin, a former ADA vice president and past president of the Maine Dental Association, says that since the coronavirus pandemic began, “there still isn’t a single known case of transmission of coronavirus in a dental setting between a patient and dental staff member,” which he attributes “to adherence to strict infection control guidelines that have long been in place in dental offices.” Dr. Shenkin adds that “dental offices are one of the safest health care facilities for the public to be, and dental care should remain an essential health care service as the pandemic continues.”

I want to review our current office protocol:

- Masks are currently optional and we encourage you to wear one if you feel more comfortable doing so
- To support social distancing, we limit the number of people in our waiting room- please arrive 5 minutes before your designated appointment time. Please do not bring siblings, friends or relatives who do not have a scheduled appointment. Only scheduled patients will be allowed in the treatment and common areas of our office.
- Upon arrival to our office, please use the hand sanitizer on the counter.
- Patients will be given an antimicrobial rinse (that helps kill or stop the growth of micro organisms) to use before their procedure starts.

- We are wearing the appropriate shields, masks and uniforms for each procedure as determined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and ADA. •
- To further ensure your safety, our entire office has been disinfected including the reception area, treatment rooms, restrooms, waiting room/front desk area, and all other spaces inside our practice. All door handles, light switches and countertops will be wiped down throughout the day, and all non---essential items such as magazines and displays have been removed. •
- HEPA advanced air filters have been installed in strategic areas in our office.

We want to assure you that we have always had rigorous sterilization and disinfecting protocols in place and will continue to follow them. A medical grade surface disinfectant that kills all known infectious diseases is used in each operatory, after every appointment. We have always made the health and safety of our patients our number one priority and will continue to do so. If you experience any cold or flu like symptoms, please call our office to reschedule your appointment.

I look forward to seeing you again and want to sincerely thank you for being our patient and for your continued support. I am extremely grateful for each and every one of you! If you have any questions please feel free to call the office at 303-355-6340 or email us at [information@murdochdds.com](mailto:information@murdochdds.com)

Sincerely,

Richard A. Murdoch, DDS, PC