



Dear Maple Grove Dental Patients:

We hope this finds everyone safe, healthy and following appropriate social distancing/mask guidelines. As the COVID-19 landscape continues to evolve, we will also continue to monitor the current literature for best practices. We have developed a set of policies that help to keep both patients and staff members as safe as possible as well as allow us to assess risk levels in the event of a COVID-19 exposure in the office.

Our current policies and recommendations include the following:

- We ask you to consider if you are having any COVID-19 symptoms before arriving at your appointment. If you are having any symptoms of illness, please contact our office so that we may reschedule your appointment time, thus making it available for other patients.
- When you arrive at the office, please check in at the front desk. You will also be asked a series of screening questions regarding COVID-19; depending on your answers to these questions, you may be asked to reschedule.
- If you have recently tested positive for COVID-19, we ask that you please reschedule and delay your appointment until after you have completed the proper quarantining protocols recommended by the public health department. We also ask that you reschedule if you are awaiting results from a test taken due to high risk exposure or newly developed symptoms until after the results have been received.
- Please bring a mask or face covering to wear upon entering the office. While local public health department guidance and mask mandates may change from time to time, we are considered a healthcare facility and must adhere to stricter masking protocols. Once you are seated in the operatory, your assistant or hygienist will indicate when it is appropriate to remove your mask.
- When being brought back for your appointment, you will be asked to either wash your hands with soap/water or use a hand sanitizer. Please note that our staff will continue to wash or sanitize their hands prior to and after treatment as they have in the past.
- Only the scheduled patient will be allowed in the office (except our young or special needs patients who may have one person accompanying them). We prefer that no one other than the patient be in an operatory.
- Patients will be asked to rinse with an antimicrobial rinse prior to treatment.

- You may notice other changes implemented throughout our office—physical protective barriers, lack of any reading materials, air filtration systems and changes in our personal protective equipment. Likely unseen are changes to our already-rigorous infection/sterilization protocols, which we are following to ensure instrument and room sterility. All surfaces which are commonly contacted by patients and/or staff, will be cleaned and sanitized frequently throughout a given day. Our strict adherence to the sterilization of dental instruments will continue. We are proud of our infection control efforts and historically we have always followed CDC and ADA guidelines.
- Please maintain social distancing guidelines when in the office, especially when multiple people are gathered in waiting room/front desk area.
- While we do not require patients to be vaccinated to receive treatment, we strongly recommend the vaccine to those who are eligible. Staff members may ask you about your vaccination status as part of our routine medical history updates in your chart.
- We ask that you please contact us if you test positive for COVID-19 within 3-5 days after your appointment with us. We will then evaluate exposure risk levels for anyone in the office at that time and take appropriate actions. The goal of all of the preceding policies is to limit the potential for high risk exposures between patients and staff members.

Since reopening in the spring of 2020, dental offices across the country have been shown to be extremely safe when proper precautions are taken. We take pride in our continued adherence to the strictest infection control standards. Maple Grove Dental team members will, on a daily basis, complete the same screenings as patients. Any discrepancies, or any sign of illness (i.e. fever/cough) will result in that staff member immediately leaving the office and their patients being rescheduled to another day.

We believe these policies will ensure your safety, and ours, while we provide you with your dental treatment that is an integral component of your overall health. We thank you in advance for your patience as we navigate this new paradigm. And as always, we are very grateful for the trust you place in our care.

We look forward to seeing you soon,

Dr. Oboikovitz and the staff at Maple Grove Dental