

Delta Dental Mobile Program COVID-19 Protocols – updated March 23, 2021

These protocols represent the minimum necessary precautions for providing treatment. Team members may choose to wear additional PPE if desired. If additional PPE is worn, proper protocols must be followed.

Daily protocols

- No team members should come to work if sick or having cold, flu or COVID-19 symptoms.
- At the beginning of the day all team members will answer screening questions and have their temperatures taken with a contactless thermometer (temperatures above 100.3° F and greater are considered symptomatic). See addendum A for a list of COVID-19 symptoms.
- If during the workday staff become symptomatic, they will be sent home and required to contact physician if symptoms persist.
- Positive tests for employees will be handled based on the current CDC guidelines.
- Maintain social distancing at work with other team members and patients, whenever possible.
- All team members must wear masks in clinical areas and inside clinic sites.
- After each patient is complete, clean and disinfect any area the patient touches.
- No unnecessary objects (e.g., toys, papers, treatment items not needed, etc.) that are at risk of contamination may be within 6 feet of the patient chair. Objects that can't be removed should be cleaned using standard disinfection techniques.
- Air purifiers in the mobile clinic site will be continuously running throughout the day.
- For truck clinics, patient exams will be scheduled for 10 minutes at a time. Exam times may be extended based on availability.
- Team members will change out of scrubs at the end of the day before leaving the clinic site. You need to have designated clinic shoes or wear shoe covers.

Appointment protocols

- Team members will actively screen everyone on the spot for fever and symptoms of COVID-19 before they enter the mobile clinic site, including taking temperatures with a touchless thermometer. Patients presenting with any symptoms, no matter how mild, including a temperature above 100.3° F should be dismissed and asked to consult their medical provider.
- Only one patient is allowed in any room of the truck or within 6 feet of one another in the hygiene area at a time. Anyone accompanying the patient should be advised to wait outside in their car or inside the site until the patient has completed their treatment.
- If two patients are on the truck, they shall remain in separate operatories with the doors closed.
- Patients' arrival and departure from the trucks will be staggered to ensure they are not in the sterilization room at the same time.
- If for any reason the parent/guardian needs to accompany the child, the parent/guardian's temperature will be taken and COVID-19 symptoms asked about before entry into the truck or hygiene area; if parent/guardian has symptoms, including a temperature over 100.3° F the child will not be seen.
- Any parent/guardian in a clinical area must wear a mask, use hand sanitizer, and socially distance as much as possible.
- All patients (and parents/guardians if applicable) will apply hand sanitizer with 20 second rub when they enter the truck.

Order to Put On (Don) PPE Gear

1. Perform hand hygiene using hand sanitizer.
2. Put on isolation gown (if performing aerosol procedure).
3. Put on mask or respirator appropriate for procedure. If donning an N-95 mask that has been previously worn; don gloves, put on mask, discard gloves, perform hand hygiene.
4. Put on goggles or safety glasses.

5. Put on face shield.
6. Perform hand hygiene before putting on gloves. Gloves should cover the cuff (wrist) of gown.
7. Health care personnel may now enter patient room.

How to Take Off (Doff) PPE Gear

1. Remove gloves. Ensure glove removal does not cause additional contamination of hands. You may don utility gloves for the remainder of the doffing procedure.
(Dentists skip to step 6)
2. Instruments will be taken care of appropriately.
 1. Assistants will don utility gloves and gather dirty instruments to take to sterilization area.
 2. Hygienists will put instruments in designated container.
3. Assistants and hygienists will return to operatory /work area, sanitize utility gloves and proceed to clean treatment room according to protocol.
4. After room is cleaned, sanitize utility gloves, remove paper chart from protective sleeve and place paper chart in cleaned area to complete.
5. Re-sanitize utility gloves and hang in designated area.
6. Remove face shield and goggles.
7. Remove and discard gown.
8. Remove and discard respirator or face mask.
9. Perform hand hygiene.

Note: Hand hygiene should be performed in between steps if hands become contaminated.

Procedure and PPE protocols

Non-Aerosol procedures: Exam, FV, SDF with glass ionomer (mechanical debris removal), Hall Crowns

- Minimum PPE required for non-aerosol generating procedures: reusable lab coat, gloves, surgical mask, shield, goggles.
- If possible, no simultaneous air/water spray.
- Operatory doors will be closed on the trucks.
- Air purifier with UV light will be running.
- Reduced Aerosol Prophylaxis
 - Upon scaling, use best practices to reduce aerosol production.
 - Wipe debris on a 2x2 gauze
 - Due to aerosol production, do not perform a rubber cup prophylaxis.
- Non-aerosol Glass Ionomer Sealants
 - Use explorer to remove debris from tooth surface.
 - Wet cotton gauze with water and use to clean remaining debris from tooth.
 - Use cotton roll holder/cotton rolls and dry angle to isolate area, the goal is to dampen the tooth surface, but not completely dry the tooth.
 - Complete glass ionomer sealant using standard procedures.
- Iodine and Fluoride
 - Drop 1-2 drops of iodine in disposable well.
 - Dip cotton tip applicator in iodine.
 - Rub cotton applicator with iodine on all surfaces of teeth.
 - Apply Fluoride varnish

Aerosol producing procedures: Any procedure using air/water combination or high/slow hand pieces. Aerosol procedures should be scheduled together to help conserve PPE.

- Minimum PPE required for aerosol generating procedures: disposable gown, gloves, N-95 mask, shield, goggles
- HVE to be used at all times.
- If possible do not use air/water spray simultaneously.

- Operatory doors will be closed.
- Air purifier with UV light will be running.
- Water on high speed should be reduced as much as possible while still having cooling effect.
- Use of rubber dams is recommended.
- Ceiling fan will be turned on and air conditioner turned off, when possible, to create flow of air outside from the operatory.

Nitrous Oxide:

- Disposable masks with tubing are to be used for nitrous oxide and the non-disposable hoses are to be heat sterilized per the manufacturer instructions.

Respirators (N95 masks):

- Respirators will be donned and doffed up to five times unless the mask is visibly soiled, obviously damaged, or it becomes hard to breathe through.
- If respirator supply doesn't allow for disposal at the end of the day, masks that remain viable will be placed in a brown paper bag and labeled with the team member's name and the day of the week to be used the following week. It may be used for up to five donning and doffing this way. Please note special donning procedure when re-using a N-95 mask.
- Makeup is not to be worn with a N-95 mask. Any N-95 mask with make-up on them are considered soiled and must be discarded.

Disposable Gowns and Laboratory Jackets:

- For non-aerosol procedures, reusable laboratory jackets need to be worn. Jackets need to be changed daily or if they become visibly soiled.
- For aerosol generating procedures, a disposable gown needs to be donned. Disposable gowns need to be discarded after each patient.
- Before entering treatment area, check laboratory jacket or gown for ripped or torn areas. Gowns and protective clothing should be changed if they become soiled, ripped or torn.

Face Shields:

- Clean and disinfect face shield according to manufacturer's recommendations and place the face shield in a clean area.

Oral Health Coordinators

OHC will set up screening area outside of treatment room or if in the room, they need be set up at least six feet away from the treatment area.

Post appointment protocols

A statement will be added to the take home sheet (yellow for trucks and green for prevention clinics) reading:
If the patient develops symptoms of COVID-19 within 48 hours of their appointment, please contact Zach Parsons at 605-494-2558.

If a patient is showing symptoms of COVID19, recommend that they notify their physician for potential testing and to report back any information or results. If a patient is confirmed to have COVID19, any team member with prolonged close exposure to the patient while not wearing the appropriate PPE needs quarantine for 14 days from last exposure.

Addendum A: Covid-19 Symptoms

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness.

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea