

Dear Patient:

On Wednesday, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that the spread of the Coronavirus, COVID-19, is now classified as a global pandemic. Many cities, businesses, and school districts are taking necessary steps to help further prevent the spread of this virus in the state and nationwide.

To limit the spread of this illness, experts recommend that people minimize circumstances in which individuals are placed in close contact. In cooperation with this guideline, Village Family Dental is implementing a plan to maintain our patients' safety. In order to accomplish this, we have established the following guidelines:

- ✓ **We are asking *scheduled* patients who have travelled internationally within the last 14 days, or who have been in contact with someone who has travelled internationally, to report this information to their primary care physician or their local health department to determine if they need to be tested or evaluated. We will reschedule your appointment after quarantine limits have passed.**
- ✓ **Patients who have been in contact with an infected person should not present to the office but should contact their local health department or primary care physician to determine the course of action.**
- ✓ **Patients who have or who have been in contact with a person experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or a fever should not present to the office for treatment but should contact their primary health care physician or local health department.**

To further ensure patient safety we ask that you

- ✓ **Arrive to appointments on time instead of early so that we do not have multiple patients in the waiting room so that we can maintain "social distancing".**
- ✓ **Comply with rinsing with a 1% hydrogen peroxide solution prior to treatment, which has been recommended by the American Dental Association to reduce the oral salivary load of microbes. Coronavirus is susceptible to oxidation.**
- ✓ **Comply with having your temperature taken at the office prior to treatment to detect a possible infection.**

We want to reassure you that we will also be implementing policies in our physical space, such as:

- ✓ **Completing our usual and routine infection control measures.**
- ✓ **Removing reading materials and magazines from the waiting room.**
- ✓ **Wiping doorknobs, handles, and payment terminals after every patient visit.**

Your comfort and safety are important to us, and we want you to be sure to share any concerns you have with us so that we can help you find solutions that work for your situation. For more information about COVID-19, click this link: <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>

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