

**** EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY ** INFECTION & DISEASE CONTROL POLICIES ****

Dear Patients/Parents/Guardians,

We hope this letter finds you and your family in good health. Our pediatric dental practice is committed to the safety of our patients, staff, and community. We are **devoted** to implementing **new measures and practices** of **INFECTION CONTROL**, including but not limited to those described below, to further ensure the welfare of our community during the COVID-19 Pandemic. We operate in accordance to the CDC, AAPD, ADA, TDA, TSBDE and applicable executive orders. It is important to note that although we follow **INFECTION CONTROL** policies, there is still a risk of contracting COVID-19 without a vaccine or cure.

We believe that the decision to receive or defer dental services during this time is a personal one and will be respected. For your safety, we recommend holding off on elective dental procedures. Note, dental disease is progressive in nature and should be addressed *immediately*. We want to reassure that we will continue to provide all of these measures to ensure the safety of our patients and their families.

You will see some changes when it is time for your next appointment. Please be patient with us as we implement these additional measures.

- **We are no longer allowing individuals without appointments to enter the facility. Only the patient with the scheduled appointment and one parent is allowed to enter the waiting area.**
- **Our office will communicate with you before your child's appointment to ask screening question. You will be asked those same questions and you and your child's temperature will be taken prior to entering the facility.**
- **There will be more time scheduled in-between patients.**
- **Consent for *all* treatment, as always, will be REQUIRED, including specific consent to receive treatment during the current COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **The use of hand sanitizing measures and face and mouth protection (masks) are required upon entering our office for every member entering the facility.**
- **Staff is taking the following measures for your protection:**
 - **Testing for COVID-19; PPE (gloves, face-masks, Face-shields, gowns, eye protection), High-volumes and extra-oral suction to mitigate aerosol-generate procedures, and High quality A/C filters.**
 - **If the office is at maximum capacity, it is required that you wait in your vehicle until you are called in for treatment. (Please provide our office with a valid number to call you in).**
 - **Waiting rooms and treatment bays have designated areas to implement social distancing practices.**
 - **Entrances into the treatment areas are limited to scheduled patients only. Patients under the age of 13 will need consent from parent/guardian.**
 - **Treatments per visit will be maximized to reduce the # of patients in the reception area.**

We will prioritize patient's of record with emergency/urgent care, patient's who have continued treatment plans, and patient's who require orthodontic follow-up. We look forward to seeing our patient's smiling faces again soon and are happy to answer any questions you may have.

STAY SAFE! - DR. ESPARZA & STAFF