



**ORAL HEALTH KANSAS**  
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## **A Guide to Dental Visits After COVID Outbreak**

A healthy mouth is essential to good overall health and wellbeing. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, dental offices in Kansas will start to open again. The [American Dental Association](#), [American Dental Hygienists' Association](#), [Centers for Disease Control](#), [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#), [Kansas Dental Association](#), and [Kansas Department of Health and Environment](#) recently released guidelines and recommendations to keep patients and staff safe. As you make plans to go to your dentist, Oral Health Kansas wants to be sure you have the latest information on changes you may see.

### **Prior to your appointment:**

- You may receive a letter from your dentist reaffirming their commitment to safety and infection control and informing you of any changes in their protocol.
- To allow social distancing between patients, you may have fewer appointment time options.
- You may be asked screening questions when you make your appointment and again when you arrive at the office.
- Your dental office may take your temperature when you come into the building.
- Many offices will have hand sanitizer available.
- Waiting rooms may no longer have items such as magazines and children's toys, as they are difficult to clean and disinfect.
- You may be asked to wait in your car until it is time for your appointment.

### **During your appointment:**

- Handshakes or other touching not necessary for treatment should be avoided.
- If possible, only the patient will be allowed in the treatment room.
- Everyone in the treatment room will be wearing a mask.
- Treatment may be modified to reduce the amount of aerosol produced.

### **After your appointment:**

- You may be asked to report any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 within the 14 days following your appointment.

### **Staff Protection:**

- Front desk staff may be wearing masks and/or talking with you through a clear barrier.
- Staff may be wearing equipment such as face shields, cloth or disposable gowns, and foot and head covers.

If you have questions about whether your dental office is safe to visit, please call your dentist.

This list is not intended to be comprehensive, and it is subject to change. Your dentist will clarify their new protocols to keep both you and their staff safe. They look forward to working with you to ensure you are able to maintain good oral health!