



## 26TH STREET DENTAL

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270 26th St. Ste. 301  
Santa Monica, CA 90402  
P:310.394.2796 F:310.451.0980  
Info@26thStreetDental.com

### March 20, 2020

Greetings 26<sup>th</sup> Street Dental Family,

I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe and healthy. I'd like to bring to everyone's attention a new update regarding the COVID-19 situation.

Last night Governor Gavin Newsom placed the state of California on a 'Shelter in Place' order till April 18<sup>th</sup>. This as I understand it, not only asks civilians to stay at home as much as possible, but requests that all non-essential businesses close their doors. As always caring for our patients and ensuring the health of our 26<sup>th</sup> Street Dental Team members is our top priority. According to Newsoms's order we will extend our hiatus of 'elective dental treatment' to at minimum 4.18.2020. So you should expect phone calls to reschedule from our staff members in the coming days. I have asked them to reschedule patients starting on **5.11.2020** in an effort to be extra cautious. We truly thank you for your continued patience in such a stressful period.

However, I would like to let you all know **we are still open** to see emergency appointments during this time on a case by case basis. We have a questionnaire that all potential emergency appointment patients will have to answer prior to being appointed. I have included in this email for your information.

\*\*If you know you have an appointment prior to 4.18.2020 it would be helpful to our front office team members if you could please call to reschedule.

Best Wishes,

Drs. Averill, Dunkling and the 26<sup>th</sup> Street Dental Team

2020 COVID-19 QUESTIONNAIRE

Keeping you safe and healthy is our top priority. As healthcare professionals, we are taking responsibility for screening all of our incoming patients, and these questions will help us to understand your current health, and plan for your dental treatment.

- 1) Are you over the age of 65 or are you under 65 and immunocompromised (medical conditions).  
 Yes

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- No
- 2) Do you have a fever over 100.4, or have had a fever in the past two weeks?
  - Yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_
  - No
- 3) Have you experienced a recent onset of respiratory problems, such as a cough or difficulty breathing, in the past two weeks?
  - Yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_
  - No
- 4) Have you visited an area with documented Covid 19 transmission in the past two weeks?
  - Yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_
  - No
- 5) Have you come in contact with someone with confirmed Covid 19 in the past two weeks, or with someone who visited Wuhan city and its surrounding areas who has respiratory symptoms?
  - Yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_
  - No
- 6) Have you been in contact with 2 people with fever or respiratory problems within the past two weeks?
  - Yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_
  - No
- 7) Have you recently participated in any meetings, or had close contact with many unacquainted people?
  - Yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_
  - No

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Guidelines adapted from recommendations by 2020 article published in International Journal of Oral Science, "Transmission routes of 2019-nCoV and controls in dental practice." Peng, X; Xu, X; Li, Y; Zhou, X; Ren, B. IJOS (2020) 12:9.*



## March 16, 2020

Greetings 26<sup>th</sup> Street Dental Family,

We hope everyone is doing well in this very trying and uncertain time.

As promised, we are continuing to send updates as we receive them. We have 3 pieces of information we'd like to outline at this point.

1.) Late last night we received the following important message from the California Dental Association.

***"California Dental Association strongly recommends that dentists practicing in California voluntarily suspend nonessential or non-urgent dental care for the next 14 days. As always, it is expected that dentists will continue to be available as needed for emergency care and services.***

*CDA does not make this request lightly, and it is being done out of an abundance of caution during this historic public health emergency. As health care professionals, we all have a role to play in "flattening the curve" in order to follow sound, scientific public health advice to help limit infections and slow the spread of the virus."*

2.) Governor Gavin Newsom held a press conference last night outlining new guidelines for the general public. Please see below.

- A. *Those that are 65 and older or vulnerable to [#COVID—19](#) must practice home isolation.*
- B. *Bars, night clubs, wineries, and breweries should close in CA.*
- C. *Restaurants -- focus on takeout for those isolating. Maximize social distancing.*

3.) Below are new guidelines for when coming to our office for **necessary** dental treatment.

**AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION HAS ISSUED WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS TO HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS WORLDWIDE REGARDING CORONAVIRUS. WE ARE TAKING EVERY PRECAUTION NECESSARY TO LIMIT THE EXPOSURE OF ANY VIRUS WITHIN OUR OFFICE, AND WE ASK THAT YOU HELP US BY PARTICIPATING IN THESE PRECAUTIONS.**

- A. *PATIENTS WILL BE PRE-SCREENED OVER THE TELEPHONE PRIOR TO SCHEDULING AN APPOINTMENT AND WILL BE SCREENED AGAIN IN THE OFFICE. ANYONE EXHIBITING FEVER OR FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS WILL BE RESCHEDULED AND ASKED TO REPORT TO THEIR PHYSICIAN.*
- B. *UPON YOUR ARRIVAL TO OUR OFFICE, WE KINDLY ASK THAT YOU USE THE HAND SANITIZER WE HAVE PROVIDED.*
- C. *PLEASE DISINFECT YOUR HANDS PRIOR TO USING ANY PENS TO FILL OUT ANY DOCUMENTS WE MAY NEED FROM YOU.*



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- D. *IF USING THE RESTROOM OR EXITING AND REENTERING OUR OFFICE, WE ASK THAT YOU USE THE HAND SANITIZER PROVIDED UPON REENTRY.*
- E. *PLEASE INFORM US IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING A FEVER, COUGH, OR DIFFICULTY BREATHING.*
- F. *PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL BE LIMITING SOCIAL DISTANCE, INCLUDING HANDSHAKING, AS A MEANS OF DECREASING POSSIBLE TRANSMISSION OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19).*
- G. *PLEASE INFORM US OF ANY RECENT TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF THE US TO AREAS CONSIDERED LEVEL PRECAUTION BY THE CDC. THIS INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES: ITALY, SOUTH KOREA, IRAN, AND CHINA (AS OF MARCH 5, 2020).*
- H. *ALSO, PLEASE INFORM US IF YOU HAVE TRAVELED WITHIN THE US.*
- I. *PRIOR TO ALL TREATMENT WE WILL HAVE PATIENTS RINSE FOR 30 SECONDS WITH 1% HYDROGEN PEROXIDE.*

**WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND PARTICIPATION IN THESE OFFICE POLICIES.**

4.) In summary;

- A. We are **SUSPENDING ALL ELECTIVE DENTAL TREATMENT** for the next 2 weeks per the recommendation of the California Dental Association. This includes;
  - a. Dental cleanings, re-care examinations, whitening, non-emergent fillings and crowns, and Invisalign.
- B. We **WILL** continue to see patients who are 65 and younger, do not have a compromised immune system, have not traveled to any of the above mentioned countries, and are not exhibiting symptoms for; crown delivery appointments, tooth aches, swellings, broken teeth, and god forbid any traumatic accidents involving the teeth.
- C. Anyone who is 65 and older and those with compromised immune systems, in general (not just as it relates to dental treatment) should self-quarantine for 2 wks.
- D. Our front office staff will be contacting patients all week in order to reschedule. They will be working a limited schedule over the next few weeks, but if you leave a message, they will get back to you as soon as possible.

Thank you for understanding as we are trying our best to navigate this difficult situation.

Stay well,

Drs. Averill and Dunkling and the rest of the team at 26<sup>th</sup> Street Dental

\*We've included some helpful links below to stay up-to-date with COVID-19

<https://www.cda.org/Home/News-and-Events/COVID-19-coronavirus-Updates>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41368-020-0075-9>

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<https://www.facs.org/about-acscovid-19/information-for-surgeons>



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