

TCFD REOPENING PROTOCOL

OBJECTIVE:

Third Coast Family Dental has been closed in order to protect the health of our patients, team, and community through social distancing. This document outlines how we will complete a phased reopening utilizing the most up-to-date information and taking all possible safety precautions. This plan will involve three primary strategies: reducing risk by screening patients, redesigning workflow to increase distancing, and adding enhanced protective equipment.

SCREENING:

Postponing appointments:

Most patients over 65 years of age or who are part of another high risk group will be rescheduled for June 1st or later. Most hygiene (cleanings) appointments will be rescheduled into late May or June.

Phone screening:

All scheduled patients will be called the day before the appointment and asked a series of screening questions by the front desk team. Patients will answer the questions again in writing when they arrive.

Temperature assessment:

All patients will have a non-contact temperature screening before they are taken back into the clinical setting. Team members who report symptoms or have a fever on testing will be asked to stay home.

DISTANCING:

Reduce number of persons present:

We will resume operations with a smaller team, more time scheduled between patients, and fewer procedures performed overall. Adult patients will be asked not to bring anyone with them.

Physical workflow will be rearranged:

All magazines and toys will be removed, coffee/water station will be closed, and all chairs will be spaced 6 feet apart. Whenever possible, patients will be encouraged to wait in their cars until called in by the front desk team.

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT :

Office air filtration and aerosol management:

Heating and cooling system was just upgraded with HEPA air filtration. Air circulation now draws more fresh air from outside. Fewer procedures will generate fewer aerosols, and those aerosols will be better captured with enhanced suction equipment. Pre-rinsing before procedures may decrease risk as well.

Protective gear for team members and patients:

N95 masks, face shields, gowns and caps, and goggles will be used for all patients. Patients will be provided with goggles, hand sanitizer, and masks. Equipment such as chairs will be covered.

Enhanced sterilization and disinfection procedures:

Our team will continue to use the latest disinfection and sterilization techniques between each patient, with the addition of daily deep cleanings of all surfaces both in the common areas and the treatment rooms.