

Screening Protocol for Dental School Patients

- Patients to enter the dental school at the first-floor entrance with physical distancing in the line.
- Patients are not allowed entry into the school until 30 minutes before their appointed time. In the event of a special circumstance (for example, a patient is disabled or came via public transportation and arrived earlier than 30 minutes), the faculty on-call should be consulted to determine if an exception can be made for the patient to wait in the waiting area (such as the lobby). Waiting room space is very limited and this should be applied only for special circumstances.
- Urgent Care walk-in patients without appointments will be accepted at 7:30AM on a first-come/first-serve basis. The number of patients that can be treated each day will be provided to the screening/ urgent care employees.
- Patients are **NOT** to have anyone come with them to their dental appointment including family, children, or person providing transport. **(Please see exceptions below)**

Escort exceptions can be made for the following:

- Interpreters for language barrier where patient does not speak English.
- Guardians for minor children where the child is the patient. Siblings of the patient are allowed to accompany guardian/patient as long as the pediatric clinic approves. The screener should contact the pediatric dentistry clinic at 6-4213 or 6-4214.
- Caregivers/guardian who have power of attorney to make decisions for adult patients being treated.
- Escort for a patient receiving IV sedation.
- Otherwise escorts that are required for patients to receive patient care.
- If there is a conflict with any of the above exceptions, the on-call faculty should be consulted.

Patient Screening Process

1) The screening staff will ask the following screening questions:

- A. **If the patient is coming from a nursing home or other long-term care facilities (for example: correctional facility or group home),** they must bring either proof of vaccination or a COVID negative test (Both PCR and Rapid Antigen Tests are acceptable) within 7 days of visit to the dental school. Helping Up Mission (HUM) will provide written documentation certifying medical clearance for their patients.
- B. **Do you have an appointment?**
 - If they say **NO**, we cannot allow them to enter.
 - If the patient has no appointment and is visibly swollen, contact
 1. First contact is Reggie or Antionette at 706-4010 or 706-4011
 2. If no answer, call Dr. Idzik at 443-845-6487 (do not hand this # out to anyone)
 - If they say **YES**, proceed to next question.

- C. **Have you experienced fever greater than 100.0 F in the past 14 days?**
- If they say **YES**, we may not be able to allow them to enter.
 - If the patient has had a fever in the past 14 days, screening staff should reference on-call faculty schedule. The on-call faculty will make the determination for admission or denial after review of the medical reason (e.g. The patient may have a fever because of dental issues and not COVID infection).
 - If they say **NO**, proceed to next question.
- D. **Have you had any of the following symptoms in the last 14 days (cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, muscle aches, chills, loss of taste, or loss of smell, runny nose, congestion, Nausea, vomiting, or Diarrhea)?**
- If they say **YES**, we may not be able to allow them to enter.
 - If the patient has had one or more of these symptoms in the past 14 days, screening staff should reference on-call faculty schedule. The on-call faculty will make the determination for admission or denial after review of the medical reason.
 - If they say **NO**, proceed to next question.
- E. **Have you tested positive to COVID?**
- If they respond **YES** to this question, **ask when**.
 - If positive within last 14 days, individual is not allowed entrance. If dental emergency, the on-call faculty should be consulted to determine if the patient should be referred to the hospital for treatment.
 - If they say **NO**, proceed to next question.
- F. **Have you had close contact or exposure in the last 14 days to anyone who tested positive or is suspected positive for COVID-19?**
- If they respond **YES** to this question, the school's policy is that you should go home and quarantine for 14 days and get a COVID test. If test is negative, you may reschedule your appointment with your student or resident. Screeners send axiUm message to faculty, resident, or student stating the patient was not allowed entrance to clinic due to COVID policies.
 - If they say **NO**, proceed to next question.
- G. **Have you traveled outside of the country within the last 14 days?**
- If answer **YES**, do not let patient enter. The school's policy is that you should go home and quarantine for minimum of 14 days. If no COVID symptoms after 14-day quarantine, patient can return to dental school for care. Screeners send axiUm message to faculty, resident, or student stating the patient was not allowed entrance to clinic due to COVID policies.
 - If they say **NO**, proceed to next step (temperature).

2) **If all of the screening questions are answered to permit entry into the building, the screening staff will take the patient's temperature.**

- If the individual's temp is below 100.4 F, they will be allowed to enter alone **WITH NO ESCORTS**.

Exceptions can be made for the following:

- Interpreters for language barrier where patient does not speak English.
- Guardians for minor children where the child is the patient.
- Caregivers/guardian who have power of attorney to make decisions for adult patients being treated.
- Escort for a patient receiving IV sedation.
- Otherwise escorts that are required for patients to receive patient care.
 - If any conflict with any of the above exceptions, consult the on-call faculty.
- If patient has a temperature over 100.4F, one of the faculty members on-call will make the determination for admission or denial after review of the medical reason (e.g. The patient may have a fever because of dental issues and not COVID infection).

General Notes

- **Pediatric Dentistry Department should be contacted for all pediatric walk-in emergencies** (Anyone ages 0 to 15.5 years old).
- For individuals denied entry will be provided an informational handout.
INFORMATION FOR INDIVIDUALS DENIED SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY ACCESS DUE TO COVID-19 SCREENING
- Faculty or staff unwilling to adhere to this protocol should be referred to Dr. DePaola or Dr. Windsor.
- If the patient is giving the screener a difficult time, they should ask the guard to escort the patient out.
- If the patient refuses to leave because they disagree with the school's COVID policies or the recommendation of the faculty consulted, the screening staff should ask the guard to escort the patient out of the building.
- **If unsure whether to give someone access**, the screening staff should contact one of the faculty members on-call will make the determination after review of the medical reason for admission or denial.
 - Faculty will be assigned to on-call duty.
 - Screening staff will have access to their mobile numbers for ease of access.
- **Additional Strategies for Managing Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19**
If a patient arrives at your facility and is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, defer dental treatment and take the following actions:
 - If the patient is not already wearing a cloth face covering give the patient a facemask to cover his or her nose and mouth.
 - If the patient is not acutely sick, send the patient home, and instruct the patient to call their primary care provider.

- If the patient is acutely sick (for example, has trouble breathing), refer the patient to a medical facility, or call 911 as needed and inform them that the patient may have COVID-19.