



# The Foleck Center

Monday, March 16, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Updates

## Dear Patients, Friends & Families,

As your health care providers and active members of our Hampton Roads community, we care deeply about the well being and overall health of our patients, families and our team. The Coronavirus (COVID-19) has changed the way we interact with each other as well as the way we are conduct ourselves. These new challenges require that we let you know how we deal with bacterial and viral issues on a daily basis; and what we are doing now to initiate even greater safety precautions to reduce the risk of transmission of this virus, as well as ensure that our patients and team remain safe. We believe that we are very well equipped to help monitor the health of our patients and point out any possible areas of concern.

Your health and the health of our team is our number one priority, and I think that you will agree that these precautions, while slightly inconvenient will benefit us all. We are proud of all the steps that we have taken in the past and were pleased to see when reviewing the EPAs recommendations on universal precautions that we were already doing more than was required. These new initiatives will add to our already high levels of sterilization and aseptic techniques that we incorporate on a daily basis.

We will not close our office unless ordered to do so by the Federal, State or Local Government and will continue to provide you with the optimal oral health. We take great pride in the fact that we do a thorough exam of not just your teeth but your entire oral cavity; and have been able to diagnose all types of conditions or illnesses just by the change in the color and size of your gingiva (gums), cheeks, roof and floor of the mouth, tongue, tonsil and adenoid tissue. Our training and continued education allows for us to preemptively diagnose areas of concern and recommend further examination with your physician. The new precautions will be implemented immediately and will continue until we feel that there is no longer a risk are listed below.

-**Our Staff** will have their temperature taken at the beginning of every day. They will not be allowed to come to work if they are sick, have a persistent cough, have a fever or shortness of breath.

-We will now have a **NO PATIENT WAITING ROOM**. When you come for your appointment, we ask that you call the office and let us know that you have arrived. We will then call you to let you know that the assistant or hygienist is ready and waiting for you. We will take your temperature at the front door. We request that anybody that has come with you, remain in the car.

-If you have traveled on a plane within the last two weeks, we ask that you reschedule your appointment.

-If you currently have a fever, cough or shortness of breath, or a family member has these symptoms, we ask that you reschedule your appointment.

-If you are immunocompromised, we ask that you reschedule your appointment, unless you are in pain, have swelling or notice infection with your teeth or gums.

-We are changing our pre chlorohexidine mouth rinse to a hydrogen peroxide/water rinse which is supposed to combat Coronavirus.

**Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Policy:** Our policy and procedures have not changed due to the Coronavirus. We have always used CDC and OSHA-mandated cleaning and disinfection protocols for all surfaces in our office and treatment rooms. We use a bactericidal, virucidal, fungicidal, and tuberculocidal disinfectant recommended for dental operators, hospital surgical rooms and equipment.

**Universal Precaution Policy:** Our policies and procedures regarding universal precautions have not changed. Universal precautions are an approach to infection control to treat all human blood and certain human bodily fluids as if they were known to be infectious for HIV, HBV and other blood borne pathogens. These precautions include Hand Hygiene Barrier protection with personal protective equipment such as masks, gloves and eye protection, Ultrasonic cleaning and sterilization of all non-disposable instruments.

We want to thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this unprecedented time. We will continue to keep ourselves aware of anything that we can do to continue to provide you with the care that you have come to expect from us. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call our office and we will be happy to discuss further.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Adam Foleck**  
**The Foleck Center**  
**Cosmetic, Implant & General Dentistry**