

Your Health and Safety are Our #1 Concern at the Wiregrass Dental Clinic

The following list is a brief overview of infection control procedures in the dental department. We have invested in a program designed to safeguard the health of patients, students, faculty and staff. Please feel free to ask questions about any of the following infection control measures.

Be Safe and Well,

Dental Department Students, Faculty and Staff

Infection Control Measures Added to Program in Response to COVID 19 Pandemic

- Medify MA-15 Air Purifiers with H13 True Hepa Filters are used continuously in the clinical area. These air purifiers are designed to filter pathogens from the air.
- Clinical area is fogged routinely by maintenance staff with Monofoil multi-action disinfectant.
- All patients have temperature taken prior to entering clinical area and complete a pre-appointment COVID screening.
- High level PPE are utilized for all patient care appointments. New additions to the routine PPE include KN95 masks, shields, clinic specific shoes and scrub caps.
- Respiratory etiquette is practiced by all faculty, staff, students and patients. A cloth or surgical face mask must be worn at all times while in the building.
- Cubicle curtains have been installed to provide additional privacy and prevent the spread of aerosols during patient care.

Dental Department Infection Control Procedures

- The program maintains written policies for all established infection control procedures. These policies are based on CDC's *Recommendations for Infection Control in the Dental Healthcare Setting*.
- Infection education prevention and training are required for all faculty staff and students.
- Faculty staff and students practice personal safety through CDC recommended vaccinations and annual TB testing.
- Clean PPE (Gloves, masks and gowns) will be donned prior to each patient. PPE will not be reused for multiple patients. Shields and loupes are thoroughly disinfected prior to reuse.
- Strict hand hygiene practices are adhered to in all aspects of patient care. Hands will be washed prior to and following all patient care. Use of hand sanitizer is acceptable before and after gloving unless hands are visibly soiled.
- All instruments are steam sterilized following each use using surgical grade wrapping or pouches. All items used during patient care are either sterilizable or disposable.
- Sterilizers are tested weekly for effectiveness through the use of spore testing. Spore tests are sent to an outside laboratory for verification of effectiveness. Weekly spore test results are reviewed by the clinic manager for accuracy.
- Water quality in dental unit water lines is monitored. Distilled water with a disinfectant is used in all dental units. The water quality is tested on a quarterly basis. All dental unit waterlines must test less than 500 CFU or that unit must be removed from service.
- Contaminated laundry (gowns, patient towels, surgical caps, etc.) are laundered on site to prevent transmission of pathogens to the environment. Students and faculty will wear full PPE when handling contaminated laundry.
- Sharps and regulated waste will be disposed of in appropriate sharps containers and red bag trash. All regulated waste will be disposed of by certified regulated waste haulers.
- Clinical surfaces are barriered and disinfected prior to and following each procedure.

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