

# What to Expect at Your Next Dental Visit

The next time you go to the dentist, you may have a new experience because of COVID-19 and guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and the [American Dental Association](#) (ADA). Offices are taking extra measures to keep you and your family safe. Here are some things that may happen before and during your next visit.

## Scheduling a visit

- Since offices have been closed, you may have to wait longer than normal for an appointment. You may also need to put your name on a waiting list.
- Some offices may delay more complex procedures for a while.

## Pre-appointment screening

- The office may ask questions to screen for COVID-19 risk factors, such as whether you have a fever or cough or have been in contact with anyone with COVID-19. This screening will help your dentist decide if you can safely come into the office.

## Day of dental visit screening

- You may be asked similar COVID-19 screening questions on the day of your dental visit.
- Some dental offices may want to ask you those questions outside of the office, or as soon as you walk in.
- You may be asked to take your temperature.
- Many offices will ask that you wear a mask while in the office. If you have a mask, please bring it with you.

## Dental office waiting rooms will look different

- You may be asked to wait in your car, rather than in the waiting room.
- Waiting rooms will have fewer chairs and they may be farther apart.
- Waiting rooms will not have child toys and magazines.
- Hand sanitizer will likely be available.
- Offices do not want a lot of extra people in the waiting room - so try to leave those individuals at home that do not have an appointment.

## During your dental visit

- If you have any questions or concerns, ask your dentist or any of the dental staff.
- Many staff, including the front desk staff, may be in face shields, masks, gowns and head coverings.
- You may see additional dividers, such as Plexiglas at the front desk and throughout the office.

## After your dental visit

- If you feel any COVID-19 symptoms or you test positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of seeing your dentist, call the dental office to let them know.

**Together we are all part of the solution to keep you and our community safe and healthy.**