

December 1, 2020

## Incorrect Media Coverage of Updated COVID Proclamation

Last week, several media outlets including KING 5 News, The Seattle Times, and KUOW incorrectly reported that Governor Inslee's updated [Proclamation 20-24.2](#) suspends non-urgent medical and dental procedures beginning December 3, 2020. ***We want to inform you that these reports are incorrect. Non-urgent dental care in Washington is NOT being suspended.***

Proclamation 20-24.2 does not enact any additional restriction or limitation on the delivery of dental care or health care more broadly. Instead, the revised Proclamation updates the requirements health care providers must follow to provide ongoing care based upon new data and resources.

Your safety is our foremost concern. We want to reassure you that we are following guidelines from the American Dental Association (ADA), CDC, and Washington State Department of Health to keep our patients and team healthy and safe, and that these guidelines are working. ***To date, according to the CDC, there has been no documented transmission of COVID-19 in a clinical dental setting.***

Our efforts to ensure your safety include:

- Our team is provided with appropriate PPE (personal protective equipment). We monitor our team's temperatures daily upon entering the office. Frequent hand washing
- Appointments are managed to allow for social distancing between patients and additional time for disinfecting procedures. Our high standards of disinfection have been extended beyond our treatment rooms to the entire facility. Sterilization protocols do not vary for respiratory pathogens.
- Provide on-line Covid-19 screening questions. Patient temperatures are taken, and we have instituted a pre-procedure rinse.
- Hand sanitizer is available for use upon entrance to the office.
- We ask that your loved ones & companions remain outside the office during your treatment. Exceptions can be made for those patients requiring assistance to and from our dental office.
- Avoid aerosol generating procedures when possible.

Please remember that maintaining optimal oral hygiene is even more critical in times of stress or medical challenge. Periodontal disease is a chronic infection of the gums & surrounding tissue. There is a direct link to periodontal disease and certain medical conditions such as cardiovascular

disease and high blood pressure. While there is no direct evidence connecting oral infection to COVID-19, we do know the highest number of coronavirus infections occurred with patients with complicated or underlying health conditions. Logic suggests that better oral health supports better general health including infection-fighting ability.

Oral health is integral to your overall health. We value your trust and loyalty and look forward to safely welcoming you to our office.

In Dental Excellence,

Dr. Bell and Team