

Updated Oct. 15, 2021

Changes to Our Safety Procedures

With “safety first” as our goal, UTHealth School of Dentistry at Houston has implemented several changes in our processes and safety procedures as we reopen our clinics. As we welcome you back, here is what you can expect.



COVID-19 Screening: Before scheduling your appointment, we will review the COVID-19 screening questions with you. When you arrive for your appointment, you will be screened again with questions and a temperature check. We ask patients to leave personal items at home or in the car before entering the building.



Scheduling: We have spaced out the schedule so that providers will treat only one patient at a time. We have scheduled time for enhanced disinfection measures between patients.



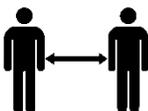
Visitor Restrictions: Visitors/companions are not allowed in the building, except for the following situations:

- Minor patients (<18 years old) must be accompanied by their parent, guardian, or proxy during the entire duration of appointment.
- Minor individuals (<12 years old) accompanying their parent, who is unable to pay/arrange for third party child care, during a sibling appointment.
- Adult patients (18+ years old) with physical and/or mental disabilities impeding them to attend their appointment or undergoing sedation may bring one visitor only.
- Senior patients (65+ years old) with no physical and/or mental disabilities but prefer assistance, may bring one visitor only.
- Adult patients (18+ years old) without physical and/or mental disabilities impeding them to attend their appointment or without undergoing sedation cannot bring any visitors.

NOTE: Family members may not serve as interpreters and may not attend appointments for that reason. Professional interpreter services are available.



Face Masking: We strongly encourage masking while in the building. However, masks will be required within the clinical areas.



Physical Distancing: We have rearranged our clinics and internal spaces so that patients, employees, and faculty can maintain appropriate physical distance. Whenever possible, we will ask you to wait in your cars until we are ready to seat you, as we have limited space in our waiting areas.



Safety Protocols: We have carefully assessed our clinics and protocols with safety experts and have made adjustments based on their recommendations. You will be asked to wash your hands before and after the procedure and rinse with hydrogen peroxide immediately before treatment. We will also be wearing more personal protective equipment and using the suction more than usual.



Cleaning Protocols: We use disinfectants approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for killing the novel coronavirus. In addition to our usual disinfection and sterilization protocols, we are cleaning our high-touch areas inside and outside of the treatment area on a frequent basis.



Follow-Up: You will be asked to report to us if you develop symptoms indicative of COVID-19 within 14 days of your procedure.

With these precautions in place, we feel confident that we can keep you and our team safe. Still, while COVID-19 is rampant in our community, some patients are at [increased risk](#) of having severe illness if COVID-19 is contracted. We ask those patients to consider deferring care, if possible. Our providers would be happy to talk with you by phone to triage urgent needs and we look forward to welcoming you back when the spread of virus in the Houston area subsides.