



FOUR PRONG PRACTICAL APPROACH TO AEROSOL MANAGEMENT

**updated April 20, 2020*

COVID-19 is primarily spread through respiratory droplets, namely coughs and sneezes and the subsequent touching of contaminated surfaces. Dental practitioners should focus their efforts first on eliminating and reducing these primary modes of transmission and secondly on managing dental specific aerosols.

ELIMINATION

- Patients ONLY in office (have all other guests wait in parking lot)
- Perform pre-office screening through online forms, questionnaires, & phone calls
- Contain coughs and sneezes by giving & asking patients to wear masks when they enter
- Aim for ZERO patient wait times. Escort patients directly into treatment rooms
- Complete treatment in a timely manner without unnecessary breaks
- Wipe clinical and non-clinical surfaces every 30min-1hour (Cavicide1 & Cholorox wipes)
- Frequent hand washing for patients and entire dental team

REDUCTION

- Pre-treatment rinse with 1.5% hydrogen peroxide
- Aerosol barriers such as rubber dam with HVE
- Intraoral suction device such as DryShield or Isolite systems
- Minimal use of handpieces and ultrasonic scalers

PROTECTION

- Utilize N-95 or equivalent mask
- Utilize gowns and proper headwear
- Put on and remove clinical attire at dental office only
- Utilize eye protection with side shields

FILTRATION

- Consider air purification systems with HEPA filters and UV-C
- Consider extra-oral suctioning devices, however prioritize intraoral over extraoral suction
- Place MERV 13 filters on existing HVAC returns (consult with an HVAC contractor)

DISCLAIMER: The recommendations in this document are based on what we are implementing at our office as well as the best available evidence and recommendations that our research team could find. The discussions and recommendations presented here are primarily geared towards minimizing risk, NOT ELIMINATING THESE RISKS ENTIRELY, in the most economic way possible. We, like all of you, will rely on universal precautions and a few extra layers of protection until further guidance is given by the ADA, CDC, OSHA, etc. Please use your own judgement in making all final decisions.