

2020 Novel Coronavirus Fact Sheet for Screening Patients at Dental Facilities

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Patient Screening

All Iowa healthcare facilities including dental practices should implement screening procedures before or at patient check-in.

Screening questions:

1. Do you have a fever and respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough or difficulty breathing)?
2. Did you travel to China, Iran, Italy, South Korea, Japan or other location with community transmission of COVID-19 infections in the 14 days before you got sick OR did you have contact with someone with possible COVID-19 in the 14 days before you got sick?

If the answer to both screening questions is yes, and

- If screening was conducted before the patient presented for care, direct the patient to don a surgical mask and enter the facility through a private entrance (if possible).
- If the screening was conducted at patient check-in, direct the patient to don a surgical mask and do not allow the patient to sit in the waiting room.
Immediately direct the patient to an exam room or another well-ventilated area that allows patients to be separated by 6+ feet.

Social Distancing and Preparation of Front Desk Staffing and Waiting Room

If COVID-19 begins to circulate in a community, local and state public health officials might recommend the use of social distancing techniques. This can include:

- Considering moving chairs to assure a 6-foot distance between individuals in the waiting room area. This should also include a 6-foot distance from the front desk during wait times.
- Consider removing magazines, toys, and objects in the waiting room that might become contaminated by ill individuals and shared with others in short time periods.
- Encourage frequent hand washing and avoid handshaking by using alternate verbal greetings or fist bumps.
- Have soap, towels, and hand sanitizer available to all staff and stocked sufficiently for hand-washing.

American Dental Association guidance: <https://success.ada.org/en/practice-management/patients/infectious-diseases-2019-novel-coronavirus>

Refer to the IDPH website: <https://idph.iowa.gov/Emerging-Health-Issues/Novel-Coronavirus> for updates and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/index.html> for health professional-specific information.

General PPE and infectious disease protocols should be enforced at all times for clinical staff working with or treating patients. The following resources should be consulted for information

- <https://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/userfiles/7/2019-Novel%20Coronavirus%20Healthcare%20Provider%20Screening%20Guidance%20.pdf>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html>
- https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fhcp%2Finfection-control.html

Patient Assessment

The healthcare provider should assess the patient (using Standard, Contact & Airborne Precautions, including use of eye protection) in a private room with the door closed, ideally an airborne infection isolation room.

During the assessment, please collect the following information:

1. Respiratory symptoms
2. Vital signs including measured or subjective fever
3. Date of illness onset
4. Location and date of travel to China or other Level 2-3 countries
5. Description of any contact with ill persons in China or other Level 2-3 countries
6. Description of any contact with the healthcare system in China or other Level 2-3 countries

If symptoms are present and travel history is re-affirmed, please contact the Iowa Department of Public Health who will provide guidance on whether testing is needed. **During business hours call 800-362-2736 or after hours call 515-323-4360 (ask State Patrol to page the epi on call).**

If testing is approved, IDPH and SHL will provide sample collection guidance and specimens transport will be arranged. Currently all testing must be performed at CDC; therefore testing will take at least 48 hours.

Environmental Cleaning

1. Routine cleaning and disinfection procedures are appropriate for 2019-nCoV in healthcare settings, including those patient-care areas in which aerosol-generating procedures are performed.
 - Management of laundry, food service utensils, and medical waste should also be performed in accordance with routine procedures.
2. Leave the room out of circulation for 2 hours.