

# Safety Measures in our Dental Practice

## 3 Patient Interviews and Social Distancing

### **Before patient arrival every effort is made to**

- ❖ Screen patients during the phone call when scheduling appointments for care using established and recommended screening checklists and scripts
- ❖ Prepare scripts and questions to recognize potential carriers
- ❖ Reschedule patients who show any signs of a cough or fever or who describe having any concerning warning signs
- ❖ Instruct patients to call ahead and reschedule their appointment if they develop symptoms of a respiratory infection (e.g., cough, sore throat or fever) on the day they are scheduled to be seen.

### **To promote social distancing**

- ❖ Prioritize high risk patients (immune compromised, over 60 y.o. etc.) with early morning appointments so less contact with other people
- ❖ When booking patients, we are spreading out the schedule so there are less people in the waiting room (A maximum of two people at a time)
- ❖ If a patient is being accompanied, their escort should wait in the car to limit the number of people in the waiting room and promote social distancing
- ❖ Utilizing a “virtual” waiting room: patients can opt to wait in their car or outside the office where they can be contacted by mobile phone when it is their turn to be treated.

### **Safety measures taken upon arrival**

- ❖ Masks and tissues are made accessible immediately upon entry and instructions are provided on how to use tissues to cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, to dispose of tissues and contaminated items in waste receptacles.
- ❖ Provide supplies such as alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) with 60-95% alcohol, tissues and no-touch receptacles for disposal, at the entrance, in waiting rooms and at the front desk.
- ❖ Post photos at the entrance and in the waiting room to provide patients and HCP (Health Care Personnel) with instructions (in appropriate languages) about hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, and cough etiquette.
  - how and when to perform hand hygiene
  - how to use tissues or elbows to cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing,
  - how to dispose of tissues and contaminated items in waste receptacles ALL these measures can help to prevent transmission to others.