

# COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Our goal is to provide a safe environment for our patients and staff, and to advance the safety of our local community.

The COVID-19 virus is a serious and highly contagious disease. The World Health Organization has classified it as a pandemic. You could contract COVID-19 from a variety of sources. Our practice wants to ensure that you are aware of the additional risks of contracting COVID-19 while receiving dental care.

Due to the frequency and timing of visits by dental patients, the characteristics of the virus, and the characteristics of dental procedures, there is an elevated risk of you contracting the virus simply by being in a dental office. Dental procedures create water spray, which is one way the disease is spread. The ultra-fine water spray can linger in the air for a long time, allowing transmission of the COVID-19 virus to those nearby.

Patients who are more than 60 years of age, and/or people who have compromised immune systems are the most at risk if they contract the COVID-19 virus. However, people of any age can contract the virus and spread it to others.

Pursuant to statements from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the American Dental Association (ADA) and the Minnesota Board of Dentistry, non-essential or elective treatment, based on the assessment of our staff, may be rescheduled if you have had symptoms, exposures or recently contracted the virus.

We will be asking screening questions when you arrive at the facility. Patient masks are currently optional inside the dental office. If you would like a mask, one will be available to you. You cannot wear a protective mask over your mouth to prevent infection during treatment as your health care providers need to access your mouth to render care. This leaves you vulnerable to COVID-19 transmission while receiving dental treatment.

Nisswa Dental will continue to follow the guidance of the CDC, the ADA and the Board of Dentistry for infection control procedures.