



Covid 19 Safety Plan

Developed with information from WorkSafeBC, the College of Dental Surgeons of BC, BCCDC, and the BC Dental Association.

Elimination: Limit the number of people at Pender Harbour Dental (PHD) and ensure physical distancing whenever possible.

- 1) Decreased number of patients coming through PHD. We have drastically scaled back the number of patients we see in a day and the procedures we do at PHD. We are currently providing Emergency care and Urgent care primarily to patients who are not in the medically high risk category. Our guidelines are changing constantly but are generally based on local incidence and prevalence of Covid 19. We get daily emails from the BC Dental Association to support the directives from the College of Dental Surgeons of BC.
- 2) Determining Covid 19 Patient Risk: Intense screening for possible Covid 19 symptoms or risk factors is done. Patients complete a Covid 19 risk assessment form the day before their procedure and are screened by telephone by our trained reception staff. The day of their appointment, patients are screened again upon entry into the PHHC, their temperature taken and recorded, and hand hygiene completed. Patients whose temperature is $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$ are given a mask and told to leave the health center and call 811. Patients with a temperature $<38^{\circ}\text{C}$ and are screened to be a low Covid risk are escorted straight into the treatment area of PHD in order to minimize time in the PHHC common area.
- 3) Patients wait in their cars until we call them in for their appointment in order to minimize the number of minutes patients are in the PHHC.
- 4) One person comes in at a time unless a parent or caregiver is absolutely necessary. There are only 2 chairs remaining in the waiting room.
- 5) Staggered patient arrival and exit times to optimize social distancing.
- 6) After treatment, hand hygiene is done and the patient exits the building. Payment options have been expanded to further minimize contact.
- 7) Infection Control Director: a position created to institute and oversee the clinical aspects of our Covid 19 Safety Plan. Darlene Fowlie is this person in our office.
- 8) Handwashing: protocol has been reviewed and signage in place.
- 9) Our previous lunchroom is now a changeroom where we enter in our street clothes and change into our work scrubs at the beginning of the day and then change out at the end

of the day back into street clothes. We've developed a scrub policy and are laundering scrubs, gowns, and bonnets at the Health Center washing facility. We thank the PHHC for the use of their laundry facility for this worthwhile purpose.

Engineering Controls

- 1) Plexiglass Shielding installed to protect reception staff
- 2) High Volume Suction and the use of rubber dams (we did that anyway) for Aerosol Generating Procedure (AGP)
- 3) Increased use of barriers in the operatories.
- 4) Frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces
- 5) Negative pressure treatment rooms: we've installed negative pressure that is capable of up to 30 ach (Air Changes per Hour) in each treatment operatory. This greatly decreases the risk of aerosolized infectious particles staying in the treatment rooms AND decreases the time needed after AGPs before the rooms can be cleaned.
- 6) Suggest positive pressure in the hallways of the PHHC by opening the windows into the courtyard.

Administrative Controls:

- 1) Dental Office Staff Return to Work Screening Form
- 2) Daily Staff Screening: for new Covid 19 symptoms, temperature taken and recorded in a Daily Log.
- 3) Occupancy guidelines: for the waiting room, reception area, sterilization, and treatment rooms.
- 4) PHD staff start/end times have been staggered to allow for social distancing of 2m whenever possible.
- 5) Virtual Front Desk where many reception and management tasks are being done remotely.
- 6) In order to minimize staff movement between the front (reception area) and back (treatment area) of the office, we're learning to use an in-office computer messaging system named Pigeon.

Personal Protective Equipment:

PHD is trying hard to minimize garbage by using as much reusable PPE as possible.

- 1) Donning and Doffing: designated areas and signage as per guidelines from our College.
- 2) Fitted N95 masks and training on how to put on and take off correctly.
- 3) Gowns: washable and made by Darlene Fowlie
- 4) Bonnets: washable and made by Maureen Lee
- 5) Scrubs: washable
- 6) Face shields