



Dear Sandhills Pediatric & Family Dentistry Families,

We received an email Monday evening at 5:15pm from the American Dental Association and the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners stating it was recommended that dental offices in North Carolina should postpone all non-emergent dental visits and cleanings to control the spread of the Coronavirus. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we determine the best way to keep our families, our team, and the greater population safe.

For now, Sandhills Pediatric & Family Dentistry will be closed from Wednesday, March 18, 2020, until further notice, in an effort to flatten the curve and prevent the spread of this virus. If you have a scheduled appointment during this time, we will be in touch to get you rescheduled once we have a better idea of when it's safe to resume normal operations. We are developing strategies to accommodate the future additional need.

This decision was not made lightly, but necessary in order to protect our patients, our team and our doctors after reading updated recommendations by the CDC and OSHA. Dental procedures generate a large number of droplets and aerosols. The latest advice is that our standard personal protective equipment is not effective enough to prevent the spread of the COVID-19, especially when patients are in the incubation period and are unaware, they are infected. This is especially unique to our profession as children and adults are being found to be asymptomatic carriers. This means that screening is no longer considered effective in capturing all who may be infected with the virus. Continuing to provide dental treatment and cleanings at this time is just not appropriate when trying to limit this virus.

OSHA has placed dental professionals in the "very high exposure risk" category regarding COVID-19. Current recommendations are that dentists and team members wear N95 masks for dental treatment during this pandemic. However, not only are these masks extremely difficult to obtain at this time, but most importantly, they need to be conserved for other professions that are at the forefront of fighting this virus.

If you have a true dental emergency, there will be a doctor to assist you. Please do NOT go to any Emergency Rooms and call our office emergency line first at 910-973-3888.

Rest assured that we are reading scientific and government recommendations, talking with local colleagues, and taking direction from our national organizations. We are sorry for any inconvenience that this may cause, but it is imperative that as a community, we slow the spread of this virus, and that requires extreme measures. We are aiming to help flatten the curve by implementing this policy.

We remain committed to the safety of you and your family! We appreciate your understanding as we all try to navigate through this situation.

Stay Home and Stay Healthy!

Sincerely,

Dr. Dunston, Dr. Heyn and the Sandhills Pediatric & Family Dentistry Team