

BLOOM COVID-19 UPDATE EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 7, 2020

Dear parents and legal guardians,

With the rising cases of COVID-19 in our community and more schools sending kids home due to a COVID positive exposure involving fellow classmates, we are refining and becoming more stringent with our office COVID protocols for your health and safety! Thank you in advance for reading and upholding our new office policies as updated with the most current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.

- **FACE MASK UPDATE:** A face mask or gaiter/face cloth **covering your nose and mouth** and everyone in your party **must be worn to enter the office and must remain on at all times**. When children are not having any dental related procedures performed, their face mask must be back on their face covering their nose and mouth. The exception being children under the age of two or children who cannot wear a mask due to legitimate medical issues.

**** UNACCEPTABLE FACIAL COVERINGS: Clear plastic chin/mouth shields not covering the nose, lace masks with visible openings, and face shields alone without a nose/mouth covering are NOT considered adequate face coverings. See attached pictures for reference. If you are wearing any of these, we will offer you one of our laundered cloth face masks to wear instead. If you can't comply with this for whatever reason, your options are to wait in your car while your child completes their visit or reschedule your appointment when you or another caretaker can come in with a face mask that does cover your nose and mouth at all times in office.****

Reference: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>



- **SCHOOL/DAYCARE/GROUP EXPOSURE UPDATE:** If your child has been sent home from school/daycare/group setting due to a COVID exposure within the last 14 days, your appointment will be rescheduled 14 days from the date of estimated exposure. If your child must be seen earlier than 14 days due to a dental emergency, please provide us with your child's negative COVID test after the exposure occurred.
 - If you or your child's recent COVID exposure escapes your mind for both of our COVID screening questionnaires (one given the day before and one the day-of/prior to entry), and a Bloom team member discovers from you or your child about said exposure occurring within the last 14 days, you and your accompanying party will be asked to leave our office immediately for the safety of everyone. We realize this will likely be an awkward situation, so please don't make it awkward for yourself and us!

BLOOM COVID-19 PROTOCOLS EFFECTIVE MAY 5, 2020:

For your health and safety, we are adding extra infection control precautions. Here's what you can expect:

- **All patients will be screened over the phone prior to their appointment and upon arrival** to see if anyone in the household has had a fever, cough, COVID-19 related symptoms, or have been in contact with a confirmed case. If so, those patients we will reschedule for at least 14 days later.
- We are **limiting the number of patients** that we are scheduling and are staggering appointments. This will minimize the number of people in the office so we can do our best to comply with social distancing and to give our team time to thoroughly disinfect between patients.
 - Please keep this in mind when you are scheduling an appointment for your child as the availability will be more limited than normal.
 - Aerosol producing treatments will be limited to mornings only.
- Only one parent/guardian will be allowed to accompany their child/children for their appointment. Anyone else will be asked to wait outside the office.
- We have eliminated the waiting room, and all parents will be required to call and "check-in" from their car upon arrival and wait in their car until a room is available.
- All parents must arrive at the office wearing a mask or face covering. If you do not have one, we will provide you a clean cloth face mask that we be returned to us prior to you exiting. If you are not comfortable with this, you will not be allowed to enter the office.
- Per the CDC, all children over the age of 2 years old are required to wear a mask to enter and the duration of their appointment when no dental treatment is being performed.
- The **temperature of every patient and parent** will be taken and recorded as soon as they come into the office.
- Patients and parents will be required to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer when arriving at the office.

As a team, we are also taking extra precautions to ensure the safety and well-being of ourselves and those around us. This includes:

- **Staff screening:** All staff will have their temperature taken daily when they arrive at the office. Staff is required to stay home if they have been in contact with any confirmed COVID-19 cases or if they have a fever, cough, or COVID symptoms.
- **Extra PPE (personal protective equipment):** All team members will wear a face mask at all times. Clinical team members will wear additional PPE, including N95 masks or Level 3 masks, eye protection glasses, face shield, hair covering, and lab coats.
- After every patient, the office will be thoroughly sanitized. High touch surfaces such as door handles will be repeatedly sanitized throughout the day as well as after every patient encounter.
- All team members will practice more frequent hand washing.

Please know that we are taking every precaution we possibly can, as well as following the most up-to-date recommendations from the CDC and OSHA to ensure the safety of our patients and our team.

- Dr. Lee and Team Bloom