

COVID-19 DOC Dental Services Protocol

Effective: January 28, 2021 until Rescinded- Version 7

Updates:

3/17/2020: No longer providing **any** removable prosthodontic treatment due to the generation of aerosols during the use of lab burs to do adjustments of prosthetics

3/26/2020: Clarification and modification of previously offered dental services

4/2/2020: Update of required PPE for dental treatments

7/20/2020: Update on denture services, PPE update, Clarification on location of where and when dental services are provided

11/9/2020: Addition of clinic requirements, update on dental services allowed, update dental PPE chart

1/28/2021: Update testing for procedures, addition of reporting test results, update approved procedures during pandemic, update dental PPE chart

Purpose: To mitigate the risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus and to protect staff and patients.

Reason: When dealing with a contagious agent that is spread by droplet contact, we need to recognize the need to manage the generation of aerosols. The changes to dental services within DOC seeks to maintain a reasonable level of service during this time for our patients, while reducing risk & keeping aerosols to a minimum.

DOC Dental Clinic Requirements

HEPA Filter Purifiers: The purifiers must be used according to manufactures instructions, at all DOC dental clinics. HEPA filters must be running throughout the entire clinical day. Turn on when starting the day clinics and turned off when leaving the clinic at the end of the day.

The isolation barriers that were placed around the dental operatories should **remain** in the clinics and will be used for emergency dental procedures when testing **cannot be done** or when a patient is **positive and not recovered** from COVID-19.

Pre-procedural Rinse: Hydrogen Peroxide (diluted to 1%-1.5%) must be used (rinse for 60 seconds and spit) by every patient prior to dental procedures - dilute 3% hydrogen peroxide 1:1 with water for rinse, undiluted can cause trauma to oral tissues. Rinse is not needed prior to dental exams/evaluations. (As of March 2020, peroxides are the only class of mouthwash recommended by the CDC for use against COVID-19. Peroxides are not a cure for the virus.)

COVID-19 Screening: Every patient should be screened, using the current DOC COVID-19 screening questions, for COVID-19 symptoms, including a temperature check prior to entering the Health Services' waiting room. Anyone with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 **will not be allowed in the dental clinic and must be given a surgical mask to don and sent to medical isolation immediately.**

Testing for Dental Procedures: Every patient undergoing a dental procedure that **could generate aerosols** will be tested for COVID-19 using the COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test as described in the current version of the *DOC COVID-19 Screening, Testing, and Infection Control Guideline*. This includes unscheduled patients requiring an emergency dental procedure. Patients must receive a **negative** COVID-19 Rapid

Antigen Test result to proceed with the dental procedure. The rapid antigen test should be conducted on the day of the dental procedure.

Patients scheduled for a dental exam/evaluation ONLY do **not** have to have COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test prior to the exam/evaluation.

Patients that **refuse** to take a COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test may be managed with palliative care and postpone their dental procedure. However, if it is a dental emergency, proceed with the necessary procedure with the approval of the Chief of Dentistry or COVID-19 Headquarters Medical Duty Officer. This treatment will be done in the isolated dental operatory using the proper PPE listed below.

Enter the encounter for testing into OMNI using D0999 Unspecified diagnostic procedure. Type: COVID 19 Test into the remarks box.

Reporting COVID-19 Rapid Test Results: The dental clinics will completely fill out the [DOH POC Reporting Spreadsheet](#) for **ALL** results of rapid antigen testing, positives and negative results in two separate files, and at the end of **each day** email the spreadsheets via secure email (by putting the following in the subject line: **[SECURE] DOC POC COVID-19 Testing with the date**) to Phocis-fax@doh.wa.gov

Disinfection: Dental operatory surfaces and equipment must be properly disinfected following the disinfectant's manufacturers wait time guidelines between patients. *If aerosols were generated during the emergency procedure: the isolated operatory may not be occupied for **4 hours** and then everything in that operatory must be thoroughly disinfected.

Current Approved Dental services provided during COVID-19 pandemic:

Comprehensive Oral Examinations

Denture Services

Endodontic Services

Hygiene

- If using ultrasonic scaler, High-speed evacuation only (use of *Isolite*, *ReLeaf*, or similar high-speed evacuation systems may be used or assistance suctioning by a dental assistant). If these are not available, hand scaling only.

Intake Screenings

Limited Oral Examinations (sick call, D3 evaluations, etc.)

Oral Surgery

Oral Radiology

Restorations

- Restore carious lesions that radiographically extend to or past the dentinoenamel junction (DEJ). Concentrate on the larger lesions. Smaller lesions should be marked in the dental record as a "watch/COVID19" and evaluated for possible treatment in the future.
- Consider application of fluoride varnish to arrest less substantial carious lesions
- Use high-volume evacuation whenever possible.
- Use rubber dams to the extent that is practical.
- No cosmetic dentistry (incisal/cusp fractures, cervical abrasions, etc.)- consider smoothing any sharp edges and applying desensitizing agents, if appropriate.

Dental Services provided during facility or unit COVID-19 outbreak:

Procedures that are **not** deemed urgent or an emergency are *suspended* until facility &/or unit is officially cleared by Prisons/Health Services Unified Command.

Location of Treatment and PPE Guideline for Dental Services

Dental Treatment	Location of Treatment	Proper PPE for Dental Staff Providing Care
<u>Pre-Approved</u> Emergency Dental Procedure with <u>positive</u> rapid antigen test result <u>or refusal</u> of rapid antigen test**	In Dental Clinic Isolated Operatory	<u>N95 mask</u> , Surgical Mask, Disposable Gowns, Gloves, Goggles/Face Shield
Restorative <u>with</u> aerosols, <u>All</u> Endodontic, Oral Surgery or Hygiene Procedures <u>with or without</u> aerosols	In Dental Clinic	<u>N95 mask</u> , Surgical Mask, Disposable Gowns, Gloves, Goggles/Face Shield
All Denture Services & Restorative <u>without</u> aerosols	In Dental Clinic	Surgical mask, Disposable Gowns, Gloves, and Face Shield
Dental Exams (Intake, limited & comprehensive)	In Dental Clinic	Surgical mask, Disposable Gowns, Gloves, and Face Shield

- All dental staff should be using the *N95 Re-use protocol* (see current COVID-19 Screening, Testing, and Infection Control Guidelines for details)
- **If a patient is being housed in medical isolation, on quarantine status, or has a positive COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test result and declares a dental emergency or is requesting dental services they must complete their medical isolation/quarantine period per the current *DOC COVID-19 Screening, Testing, and Infection Control Guideline* prior to receiving treatment in the dental clinic. Exceptions to this can only be approved by the Chief of Dentistry or Headquarters' Medical Duty Officer in coordination with your facility's prison leadership.