

## **Important information regarding your health at Park City Dentistry**

Here at Park City Dentistry we are always concerned about our patients' health and well-being. In this current climate of concern about the coronavirus (COVID-19) we want to dispel some of your fears and share some of the precautions we are taking to protect you, your family, our team, and our community. Also, with the recent order by Summit County for most businesses to close for a month, we wanted to clarify that as a medical facility we are exempt from the closures and will be open to help serve you.

First and foremost, Park City Dentistry has always had the highest standards of infection control and we will continue being meticulous in preventing any cross infections, as we have always done. Our approach is to treat every patient as if they are actively infectious with any of a number of diseases like HIV, tuberculosis, hepatitis, or even coronavirus. Our systems have always included disinfecting thoroughly all surfaces in our treatment rooms between every patient; fully washing and sterilizing all instruments in an autoclave; using disposable, single use items for anything that can't be sterilized; all team members wash hands and use hand sanitizer for every patient; high quality masks and gloves used for every patient; wiping down the front office desks, door handles, and waiting room with medical grade disinfectants multiple times a day. Dental offices are uniquely equipped to handle these kinds of situations.

What can you do to help maintain an infection free and safe environment? We are asking all our patients to use hand sanitizers available at the front desk and in all treatment rooms and restrooms; wash your hands frequently; refrain from touching your face; and if you have symptoms of flu, fever or dry cough please allow us to reschedule your appointment until after all your symptoms have cleared. Also, if you have been in contact with individuals who have recently tested positive for coronavirus or are returning from foreign travel, we ask that you reschedule your appointment for at least two weeks later. Otherwise, come on in for your scheduled appointment.

Finally, some of the data coming out of South Korea can provide some relief in the face of so much fear. They have done the most extensive testing for the virus and have some interesting data. More than 80% of the people who have tested positive for the virus have shown to only have minor symptoms, like that of a common cold or seasonal flu. To date, nobody under the age of 30 has died. From the numbers coming out of South Korea the virus has a mortality rate of 0.8%. So definitely higher than the flu (about 0.1%), but not as high as other viruses. The most at-risk demographic are those individuals over 70 years old and those individuals who are immunocompromised, have respiratory problems, heart problems, or are diabetic. If you are in that demographic, please take extra caution. And if you want to reschedule your appointment to a later time when the risk has subsided, we completely understand. With appropriate measures like social distancing and good hygiene we can help protect our most at-risk family, friends and neighbors and we can get through this together. Thank you for your understanding and support!

Dr. Calderwood and Staff