

COVID-19 Protocol Update

As of June 18, the TSBDE (Texas Dental Board) COVID Emergency Rule has expired. This rule added many requirements to dental offices to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. With the expiration of this rule, we will be making some changes to our office policies regarding COVID-19. As these changes are implemented, we expect everyone to maintain a safe, professional, and respectful office environment.

At this time, we are still required to screen patients and employees for COVID-19. We will continue to do as we have, with phone screenings and check-in screenings for patients and those coming into our building. We will also continue screening employees for symptoms. **We ask that if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, that you notify us and not come into the office.**

At this time, we are no longer requiring the use of masks inside the office (except for employees during patient care or other circumstances that require the use of a mask). Even though it is no longer a requirement to wear masks in our office, please do what you feel is best for yourself. Our lifting the requirement to wear a mask is **not** a mandate to be mask-free, and you shouldn't feel obligated in either direction. Opinions on mask wearing are varied and others' feelings may be different than your own. Please be respectful to others and the decisions they make for themselves.

COVID-19 vaccinations are available to all adults and some youth, and we encourage you to consider getting yours if you are able to and have not yet done so. However, this is your own personal choice as is your choice to wear a mask. We would like to point out that the CDC recommends that you still wear a mask indoors if you are unvaccinated.

We will be reopening the use of our waiting room. We will still give the option for patients to check in by phone and wait in the car until their appointment if they prefer.

We are grateful for your continued support and willingness to adapt during the very unique and challenging times we've faced during this pandemic. We are excited that conditions are improving and will let you know if any additional changes are to be made. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you!

Dr. Pittman, Dr. White, and Dr. Stephens