

YOUR NEXT DENTAL VISIT

The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic arrived in Hawaii in March of 2020. Although we are still discovering important facts about the lethality, infectiousness and nature of the novel corona virus, we do know that we need to protect patients and staff from the potential of infection during dental care. Lānaʻi Community Health Center has therefore taken steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the Dental Clinic.

We are especially glad that you are coming to the Dental Clinic for care. The best way to prevent infection of corona virus is to practice good preventive care. Good home care in addition to professional check-ups and dental cleanings are proven to do this. Additionally, treatment of dental problems is best done early. If you know that a filling is out or that you may have a cavity, treating these immediately is the best way to prevent more extensive and expensive needs. Please do not wait for something to hurt before you come to see the Dentist!

What to expect at your next appointment

When you leave home to come to the clinic, please be sure that you have not had any of the COVID-19 symptoms of a fever, dry cough, shortness of breath, or loss of taste or smell, sore throat, muscle pain, chills, headache, runny nose, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, or fatigue. If you are feeling ill please reconsider coming to your appointment. Also please remember to have a mask with you, and review the contacts you have had within the last 14 days to ensure that you are reasonably coronavirus safe. It is no longer considered safe for you to bring your unattended children with you to your dental appointments. Honesty and adherence to these measures protects your front line health care workers and your community.



On arrival at the clinic, you will be asked to remain in your car or in the parking lot and then call the reception desk on your cell phone to tell them that you have arrived. There will be a staff person on the front porch who will invite you on to the porch when it is safe for you to do so. Put your mask on before you come on to the front porch and check that it covers your nose and mouth. That person will ask you a few screening questions, and take your temperature. You will then be directed to enter the building when it is safe for you to do so. Please maintain a 6 foot social distancing from others in any of the waiting areas and continue to properly wear your mask.

When the Dental Assistant brings you in to the Dental Clinic, she will review your appointment plans, medical history, medications and allergies. She will also take your blood pressure, weigh you and may perform some comprehensive health screenings.

You will notice a few new infection control measures as you enter the treatment area. These measures may be intimidating to children and some adults, but they are in place to make dental care safer for you and the providers. First, you will notice that the clinical staff will all be wearing masks that make them look like astronauts. These masks prevent aerosol transmission of coronavirus. Next you will be asked to rinse for one minute with a mouthwash. This mouthwash kills any virus in your mouth and greatly reduces the viral load of any aerosols and droplets that are produced during dental care. You will also notice an air purification unit on the floor of the operatory. These units provide one complete air exchange in the room every four minutes, and sterilize the air with a fine mesh filter and ultraviolet light. You will probably not be aware of our room disinfection procedures, as this complete disinfection of the room will only happen after you have exited.

