

## Notice of Temporary Office Closure

Dear Valued Patients:

We are reaching out to you with an update, per recent collection of currently available information. Our top priority is the health and well-being of our patients, families, team members, and community. As health care professionals, we believe we have a role to play in "flattening the curve" in order to follow sound, scientific public health advice to help limit infections and slow the spread of this novel COVID-19 virus. Together, Andover Periodontics and You can do our part to control the spread of the coronavirus to save lives and buy our nation time to develop treatments and vaccines.

The Massachusetts Dental Society (MDS) and the American Dental Association (ADA) has sent recommendations to all U.S. dentists to help protect you as well as the dental professionals who serve you. To that end, **our office will be closed the Week of March 23-27, 2020** (with a few exceptions detailed below). Our office will be closely reviewing our appointment schedule. If you have a non-urgent appointment scheduled with us next week, our office will be in touch to confirm the need to reschedule for the time being. **We may need to extend this period, per our close monitoring of the newly available data, as well as State (i.e. MDS, Massachusetts Board of Dentistry) and Federal (i.e. ADA, CDC) guidelines and recommendations. Dr. Dona will be sending a weekly update on this matter to keep you informed, via email as well as our social media outlets: our Andover Periodontics Facebook and Instagram pages. Please check for updates in case you do not get our emails routinely.**

Here are the temporary measures we now have in place to comply with ADA/MDS mandates:

- **We will only be seeing patients in need of emergency dental care:** related to the relief of pain and infection management.
  - **If you are scheduled for urgent dental care**—such as Suture removal—Dr. Dona will see you. However, we may contact you to see if you would like to reschedule the previously scheduled appointment time.
- **All elective and non-essential procedures will be postponed** for the next week for now, or until the crisis abates.
  - **If you have an upcoming hygiene or non-urgent appointment**, we will contact you soon to postpone, and notify you once we are fully prepared to resume business as normal.

Our phone line will remain open for your questions and concerns. ***If you are and existing patient and are experiencing a dental emergency, please call 978-475-0567.***

At Andover Periodontics, we have always followed standard universal precautions issued by the CDC and ADA to help protect every one of our patients and team members from the many infectious diseases that we are potentially exposed to on a daily basis. While we will continue doing everything in our power to protect you, we also ask for your cooperation in making our office environment a safe one when you visit us. If you have a cough, fever, or chills, please call our office to discuss whether or not



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you should reschedule. And while we Love and Value each of our patients, handshakes and hugs may be replaced with an "elbow bump" for the time being.

We did not make this decision lightly. A great deal of care, research, and planning guided our decision. We truly believe that this is a time to "stay together" in spirit and care for each other as we pray that all these temporary imposed measures and extraordinary precautions can make a difference, and will significantly contribute to our quick recovery and bring us back stronger and more united than ever!

Again, please understand that we are making this decision with the health and well-being of our patients, our families, our dental team, and the community in mind. Please stay safe and healthy.

Truly Yours,

Dr. Dona