

NYU Dentistry Protocol for Resuming Clinical Care

Updated 4/15/21

This is a living document and will be modified as necessary as new evidence, guidance, and mandates are created and become available from the city, state, CDC, and OSHA.

General Information:

1. Building entrance/exit
 - a. Patients: 338 East 25th street
 - b. Employees and students: 345 East 24th Street
 - c. All exit through 24th St main doors
2. Patient care from 8am-5pm (until 8pm for some specialties) Monday to Friday by appointment only.
3. All individuals who enter the building must arrive with a mask (this may be a homemade cloth mask). No one will be allowed in the building if they do not have a mask on.
4. All individuals will be pre-screened prior to arriving at the College and will be instructed to not come in if they do not feel well. All patients will be prescreened via telephone before coming to the College. All faculty, staff, and students must complete the Daily COVID-19 Screener for Campus Access on the NYU Mobile App.

Employee and Student Protocol:

1. See [NYU Dentistry Health & Safety Plan](#) and [NYU Returns](#) for most up to date information.

Patient Care Protocol:

1. Patients needing procedures with a low or moderate risk of aerosol generation:
 - a. Call the patient **72 hours or less** before the appointment and administer the prescreening questions (Appendix A for more information).
 - i) If NYU Dentistry personnel are unable to reach a patient to conduct the prescreening, the appointment will be cancelled.
 - (1) If a patient who could not be reached presents at the College unknowing that their appointment was cancelled, they will be escorted to 1A for a special onsite screening by a faculty member and their care will be triaged appropriately.
 - b. Patients will be screened at the 25th Street entrance with a temperature check. All escorts must have been prescreened and their name noted in axiUm.
 - c. If the patient needs any imaging, it should be done at the beginning of the appointment before any treatment begins. Intra-oral imaging should only be done when absolutely necessary.
 - d. All aerosol risk mitigation techniques should be utilized, including isolation (e.g. using rubber dams) when possible, four-handed dentistry, and high-volume suction.
 - e. Provide treatment following the [PPE chart](#) available on the Health & Safety Plan.
2. Patients needing procedures with a high risk of aerosol generation: (intraoral use of a hand piece or ultrasonic device, surgical extractions):
 - a. Patients will need to have a COVID-19 PCR test done within 5 days of a high aerosol generating procedure. Testing is available at Metro Community Health Center located in Suite 1B at 345 East 24th Street. Patients may also choose to be tested at Bellevue Hospital, any NYC Health & Hospitals COVID-19 Testing site, through their personal physician, or other testing sites.
 - i) Test results must be uploaded to the patient's chart in "Patient Attachments" in the "Medical data/COVID" tab in axiUm
 - b. Provide treatment following the [PPE chart](#) available on the Health & Safety Plan.

- c. Always provide aerosol-generating treatment using high-volume suction.
3. If a patient develops symptoms during their appointment, they will be isolated in place. Depending on if they have begun treatment and the type of treatment occurring, the treating provider will expedite the rest of the patient's treatment and either call EMS or call Metro Community Health Center (MCHC) to evaluate patient and test for COVID-19.
4. Refer to [Clinic Manual Policy on Infection Control](#) for information on infection control procedures and protocols.
 - a. Wait 15 minutes after patient has left operatory to begin cleaning and disinfecting.
 - b. Wash hands before and after any contact with patients.
 - c. Dispose of surface barriers after each patient.
 - d. If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
 - e. For disinfection, use products that meet [EPA's criteria](#) for use against COVID-19, appropriate for the surface following manufacturer's instructions.
 - f. There will be no eating or drinking in patient care areas or within 6 feet of another person

Appendix A – COVID-19 Patient Prescreening/Screening Protocol

UPDATE as April 14, 2021: Based on data from testing, availability of PPE, and stringent screening protocols, NYU Dentistry will now allow patients to be prescreened up to 72 hours before their appointment. There will also be a special onsite screening and triage process for patients who were unable to be reached for prescreening but present at the College unknowing that their appointment was cancelled.

1. All patients will be prescreened less than 72 hours prior to their appointment. For example:
 - Monday appointments can be prescreened on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday
 - Tuesday appointments can be prescreened on Saturday, Sunday, or Monday
 - Wednesday appointments can be prescreened on Sunday, Monday, or Tuesday
 - Thursday appointments can be prescreened on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday
 - Friday appointments can be prescreened on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday
2. Patients will have their temperature checked at the 25th St entrance and then guided to 1A for check in.
3. If patients do not pass the screening process, they will be referred to Metro Community Health Center (MCHC) for care, their PCP, or EMS will be called.
4. Special Onsite Screening and Triage: If a patient who could not be reached for prescreening presents at the College unknowing that their appointment was cancelled, they will be escorted to 1A for a special onsite screening by a faculty member and their care will be triaged appropriately.

Prescreening Protocol:

1. Up to 72 hours before the individual is to appear at the College, ask the patient the questions below and note answers in axiUm.
2. If the answer to question 1 or 4 is yes:
 - a. Advise patient to self-quarantine for 10 days while monitoring for symptoms.
 - b. Advise them to contact their PCP if they develop symptoms.
3. If the answer to question 2 is yes:
 - a. Advise patient that they must complete their quarantine or isolation as directed and can be reappointed after the quarantine or isolation period has ended.
4. If the answer to question 3 is yes:
 - a. Advise patient to stay home and contact their PCP.
 - b. They must be symptom free for 10 days before being appointed.
5. If a patient does not pass prescreening, it must be noted in axiUm that they cannot make an appointment for another 10 days.
6. During prescreening, patients must be told that if they start to experience COVID-19 symptoms or have an exposure prior to their appointment, they must call the College to get guidance. They should not arrive until speaking with someone from the College. This discussion must be documented in axiUm.

Prescreening Questions:

1. Have you had close contact with anyone who has a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 diagnosis in the past 10 days (prior to the date of your appointment)?
2. Have you been directed to quarantine, isolate or self-monitor at home for COVID-19 by any doctor, hospital or health agency in the past 10 days prior to the date of your appointment?
3. Have you had any COVID-19 symptoms in the past 10 days prior to the date of your appointment to the College? (Symptoms include fever over 100.4, coughing, shortness of

breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, diarrhea, and/or nausea or vomiting)

4. Have you spent time outside of New York State in the past 10 days (prior to the date of your appointment)? (Excluding time spent in PA, NJ, CT, MA, and VT)

Additional non-screening related question:

5. Do you need a support person to accompany you to your appointment as a caregiver or legal guardian? Parent, legal guardian, caregiver, transportation, etc. Only one visitor is permitted per patient.

- a. If yes, they must also be prescreened. If the escort answers no to all prescreening questions, their name will be noted in axiUm.

Appendix B – PPE

Please see [NYU Dentistry Risk Level and PPE template](#).

Reminders on PPE and masks:

- N95s may be used up to five working days unless soiled.
- A mask may be worn continuously unless it becomes wet or soiled.
- When interacting with patients on droplet/contact precautions, a face shield must be worn to protect your eyes and the mask.
- Masks should always cover the nose and chin when worn.
- Hand hygiene must be completed before and after touching your mask.
- Your mask should be stored in a clean and dry place when eating or drinking.

Donning and doffing PPE sequences:

Donning:

1. Wash hands
2. Head cover (Bouffant)
3. Shoe cover
4. Wash/sanitize hands
5. Mask & protective eyewear
6. Gown
7. Face shield
8. Change to final procedure gloves

Doffing:

1. Take off gown over gloves (forward facing)
2. Take off gloves
3. Wash/sanitize hands
4. Put on new gloves
5. Take off shield
6. Disinfect shield (if end of day, throw out)
7. Take gloves off
8. Wash/sanitize hands
9. Put on new gloves
10. Take off hat
11. Take off boots
12. Take gloves off
13. Wash/sanitize hands

Appendix C – Aerosol Risk Score

Procedure Aerosol risk score (Table adapted from UAB SOD)

Procedure Risk Score	Procedure Characteristics
Low	Teledentistry
Low	Up to and including mirror & explorer
Medium	Hand instruments (e.g. scaler, enamel hatchet)
High	Hand instruments with air and water syringe
High	Rotary or external power source

Low risk procedures include but not limited to: Radiographs, exams, oral hygiene instruction, fluoride application, placement of interim restoration without the use of a hand piece, simple extractions, appliance adjustments, impressions, biopsy, administration of local anesthetic, bite records, try-ins, deliveries.

High risk procedures include but not limited to: Use of highspeed drill, irrigation, air-water syringe, ultrasonic scalers; Surgical extraction; I&D; repair fractured tooth; adjust prosthesis.

Appendix D - References:

AAOMS Interim Reopening Protocol for the OMS Office: https://www.aaoms.org/docs/COVID-19/COVID_Interim_Reopening_Protocol_OMS_Office.pdf

ADEA Pandemic Resource Guide: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/information-healthcare-providers>

Aguilar-Duran, A., Bara-Casaus, J., Aguilar-Duran, S., Valmaseda-Castellon, E., & Figueiredo, R. Blood splatter in oral surgery: Prevalence and risk factors. JADA 151(6), 438-443. Retrieved from [https://jada.ada.org/article/S0002-8177\(20\)30159-8/fulltext](https://jada.ada.org/article/S0002-8177(20)30159-8/fulltext)

[Cardinal Health Face Mask Selection Guide](#)

CDC Activities and Initiatives Supporting the COVID-19 Response and the President's Plan for Opening America Up Again: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/php/CDC-Activities-Initiatives-for-COVID-19-Response.pdf>

CDC Strategies to Optimize the Supply of PPE and Equipment:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/index.html>

CDC Information for Healthcare Providers about COVID-19:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html>

CDC Guidance for Dental Settings: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/dental-settings.html>

CDC COVID-19 Factsheet: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/Please-Read.pdf>

CDC COVID-19 Factsheet (What you should know to protect yourself and others):
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>

CDC Stop the Spread of Germs: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs.pdf>

CDC What to do if you are sick with 2019 nCoV: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/sick-with-2019-nCoV-fact-sheet.pdf>

COVID-Dentistry PPE Resources: <https://sites.google.com/view/covid-dentistry/home>

COVID-Dentistry Articles & Guidelines: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/sfotl4hajir691k/AAA--pQkWg11b6VhE-HfwdJaa?dl=0>

COVID-19 Exposes Potential Gaps in PPE Training, Effectiveness:
https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/928163?nlid=134913_3901&src=wnl_newsairt_200406_MSCPEdit&uac=28307MV&impID=2337551&faf=1

CMS Recommendations: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-flexibility-reopen-essential-non-covid-services.pdf>

Harrel, S. & Molinari, J. Aerosols and splatter in dentistry. JADA 2004; 135(4): 429-437.

New York State DOH COVID-19 Face Masks Flyer:

https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/05/13105_covid-19_facemasks_flyer_050420.pdf

[New York State Dental Association Return to Work Guidance](#)

[New York State DOH – Interim Guidance for Dentistry During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency \(5/31/20\)](#)

[NYU Langone Interim COVID-19 Policy](#)

OSHA Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19:

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>

Radonovich, L. & Simberkoff, M., et al. N95 Respirators vs Medical Masks for Preventing Influenza Among Health Care Personnel. JAMA 2019; 322(9): 824-833

Recommendations for the re-opening of dental services: a rapid review of international sources:

https://oralhealth.cochrane.org/sites/oralhealth.cochrane.org/files/public/uploads/covid19_dental_review_16_may_2020_update.pdf

R. S. Taichman, H.M. Pinsky, M.L. Geisinger, S. Coble, T. Christou, E. Lamani, N.M. Souccar, D.A., Givan, J. Jackson, C.H. Kau, P.J. Louis, N.C. Geurs, P.R. Liu, M. Robinson. Development of a Risk Assessment Strategy for Dental Care in the Context of Respiratory Infections Based Upon Aerosol Generating Procedures. 2020.

Verbeek JH, Rajamaki B, Ijaz S, Tikka C, Ruotsalainen JH, Edmond MB, Sauni R, Kilinc Balci FS. Personal protective equipment for preventing highly infectious diseases due to exposure to contaminated body fluids in healthcare staff (Review). Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2019, Issue 7. Retrieved from:

<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD011621.pub3/epdf/full>

The following notifications from NYS Department of Health (DOH) Health Commerce System were also referenced and followed when creating this document. For copies of individual notices, please contact the Office of Clinical Affairs.

1. Notification Type: Alert
Description of Alert: Updated Guidance: Resumption of Non-Essential, Elective Surgeries and Non-Urgent Procedures
Source Organization: NYSDOH
Notification ID: 103795
Date of Alert: 06/14/2020

2. Notification Type: Informational Message
Description of Informational Message: Updated Interim Guidance: Protocol for COVID-19 Testing Applicable to All Health Care Providers and Local Health Departments
Source Organization: NYSDOH
Notification ID: 103662
Date of Informational Message: 05/31/2020

3. Notification Type: Alert
Description of Alert: Guidance for Elective Surgery and Non-Urgent Procedures in Ambulatory Settings
Source Organization: NYSDOH
Notification ID: 103552
Date of Alert: 05/19/2020

4. Notification Type: Advisory
Description of Advisory: COVID-19 Serology Testing
Source Organization: NYSDOH
Notification ID: 103349
Date of Advisory: 04/30/2020

5. Notification Type: Informational Message
Description of Informational Message: Updated Interim Guidance: Protocol for COVID-19 Testing Applicable to All Health Care Providers and Local Health Departments
Source Organization: NYSDOH
Notification ID: 103307
Date of Informational Message: 04/27/2020