



El Paso Department of Public Health

MAYOR
Dee Margo

ORDERS FOR DENTAL OFFICES IN EL PASO CITY-COUNTY

CITY COUNCIL

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Peter Svarzbein

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Alexandra Anello

District 3
Cassandra Hernandez

District 4
Dr. Sam Morgan

District 5
Isabel Salcido

District 6
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EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

April 23, 2020

The current situation on COVID-19 in El Paso, TX continues to evolve. In light of the presence of COVID-19 in our community, the City of El Paso Department of Public Health is issuing to dental offices the following Health Authority Orders and Guidelines based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Dental Association (ADA), Texas Dental Association (TDA), the requirements of the Governor of the State of Texas Executive Order No. GA-15 (GA-15) and the current situation in our community.

The health and well-being of all members of our community is our top priority. We commend you for the important role you play in our community and for the service you provide to your patients. These are our updated orders and guidance:

- Dental practices shall remain closed until May 17, 2020; when the current emergency order from Mayor and County Judge expires.
- Dental practices shall reschedule all non-emergent surgeries and procedures to on or after May 17, 2020.
- All licensed dental health care professionals and all licensed health care facilities shall postpone all surgeries and procedures that are not medically necessary to diagnose or correct a serious dental or medical condition of, or to preserve the life of, a patient who without timely performance of the surgery or procedure would be at risk for serious adverse medical consequences or death, as determined by the patient's dental/medical healthcare provider.

CITY MANAGER
Tommy Gonzalez



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- Dental offices are only allowed to see patients on an emergency-only basis.
- Do not refer patient with emergent conditions to Hospital Emergency Rooms unless you evaluate the patient and admission to hospital is deemed necessary. It is preferred that those patients that need to be admitted, be directly admitted to hospital from your office.
- **In life-threatening situations**, do not hesitate to refer patients to the nearest Emergency Department for immediate evaluation.
- Dental practices shall continue observing universal precautions when treating patients.

General Orders for office staff:

- Dental practices shall provide appropriate level of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to all staff.
- Handwashing must be done when donning and doffing of Personal Protective Equipment (gloves, masks, face shields, etc.)
- Employees shall always wear face masks irrespective of patient contact.
- Ensure adequate supplies (e.g., soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, tissue) to support healthy hygiene practices.
- Sufficient time shall be allowed for staff to practice appropriate handwashing of no less than 20 sec with soap and water and for patients, if a place for handwashing with soap and water is not available, have an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol for use.
- Health check for all employees shall be done twice daily, at the beginning and end of a workday. Employees are to be screened for fever $>99.6^{\circ}\text{F}$, cough and shortness of breath at the beginning of their operations. If sick, please send them home.



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- Review your Human Resources policies in regards to sick leave and vacation time, should the need arise to isolate and quarantine any employee.
- Require staff to **STAY HOME** when sick and **DO NOT** report to work.
- Allow staff that stay home sick, not to bring documentation from their healthcare provider.
- Use flexibility, when possible, to allow staff to stay home to care for themselves or for sick family or household members. Develop flexible telework policies as appropriate.
- Implement a more rigorous cleaning protocol for offices.
- Post signs regarding COVID-19 prevention in your offices.

We appreciate your assistance in this matter. As soon as information changes, it will be made available through our website at EPStrong.org

The proposed Orders are to be effective immediately and publicly disseminated around the City and County of El Paso, Texas.

Hector I. Ocaranza, M.D., MPH
Health Authority City/County of El Paso, TX

