



Indian Orthodontic Society

PRESIDENT

Dr. SILJU MATHEW

HON SECRETARY

Dr. SRIDEVI PADMANABHAN

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM TASK FORCE OF INDIAN ORTHODONTIC SOCIETY FOR COVID-19

The Indian Orthodontic Society (IOS) recommends, considering the directive from Dental Council of India (DCI) to postpone any elective Orthodontic procedure till 31st March or till further notice. The corona task force of IOS is closely watching the situation and assure every member to provide updates as and when required.

Some guidelines for the benefit of our members

- We need to revisit and examine everything that we are doing in the orthodontic office to prevent disease transmission from patients to staff, from staff to patients, and from patient to patient.
- Signs or posters should be posted in the reception area advising patients on hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, and cough etiquette.
- *Put away items that may be accessed in your waiting area and potentially contaminated, such as magazines, pens, coffee/tea stations or toys.*

Infection control in orthodontic office

- Proper hand hygiene is essential for staff, as are proper PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) standards.
 - Use healthcare grade alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after all patient contact, contact with potentially infectious material, and before putting on or removing PPE, including gloves.

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- It is always advisable to use buttoned clinic jackets instead of scrub tops that must be pulled over the head, bringing the soiled garment in contact with the eyes, nose, and mouth.
- When wearing a face mask, do not pull the mask under the chin. This will allow contamination on the neck to transfer to the inside of the mask. At the same time replacing the mask on the face exposes the mouth and nose to those contaminants.

Identifying at risk patients

- *Pre-screen patients for symptoms and exposure while scheduling appointments by asking them*
 - Have you recently participated in any large gatherings (of more than 50 attendees) or gatherings of people you didn't know?
 - Have you or a member of your household travelled outside the India within the last 14 days?
 - Have you or an immediate family member been sick or had a fever within the last 14 days?

Patients answering "yes" to any of these questions should be re-scheduled. One exception may be elementary and high school students whose schools are not closed and who have attended classes
- Orthodontic practices should advise patients, when they call for appointments, that if they or any of their family member have a fever over 100 degrees, they should not come in.

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- The same should be applicable for those who visited any COVID 19 affected countries (with imported spreads, cluster spreads or community spreads) for 14 days past their arrival to India.
- Always try to use alternative ways to monitor patient treatment progress or to advise in an emergency in suspected patients. Patients can use their smartphone to take a photo of the broken bracket or other concern so the necessity of an in-person visit can be assessed.

When patient arrives at the orthodontic office

- When patients do arrive for an appointment, reception staff should be screening patients and family members with contact less thermometer and record the temperature (of patients and accompanying persons) in the screening form provided by IOS.
- Restrict access to clinical areas - parents and/or siblings should wait in the reception room.
- Adjacent dental chairs in the operatory should be assessed for the six-foot minimum when seating patients as well. Ask patients to brush their teeth before coming to their appointments to minimize contamination. When inside the operatory, provide patients with povidone iodine mouth rinse to reduce the microbial load in the oral cavity

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Important instructions

- A key concern is avoiding production of *AEROSOLS*, given the potential that asymptomatic patients may have unknowingly been exposed to the coronavirus. **So orthodontic offices should strictly avoid use of handpiece and postpone debonding procedures.**
- If a patient with symptoms of suspected COVID-19 or other respiratory infection must be seen because of an orthodontic emergency,
 - Do not allow them to wait in the reception area.
 - Treat them in a private chair separately.
 - And once they are in the chair, get them in and out quickly.
 - If dealing with a broken bracket, consider using orthodontic wax to cover the spot rather than taking the time to rebond the bracket.
 - Rebond the bracket when the patient is well
 - Refer them for testing.
 - Ask the individual if they will let you know their test results and consider an immediate closure of your office pending test results.
 - If results are positive, everyone who entered the office after the affected patient should be notified immediately.

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If your employee gets sick

- Employees who have symptoms of acute respiratory illness are recommended to stay home and not come to work until they are free of fever (cut off is 100.4° F [37.8° C] or greater), signs of a fever, and any other symptoms for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines (e.g. cough suppressants).



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