

## **Update for Phipps Dental Practice 4-29-20**

We all are experiencing a lot of difficult and uncertain times. During these unprecedented times, it is difficult to know the best decision to make for our employees, the businesses and community. There is a divide between people who are worried about further spreading the virus and people suffering economically and the decline of oral health conditions. We know that the Oklahoma panhandle area is experiencing more COVID-19 cases at this time. That being said, Governor Stitt of Oklahoma has allowed dental offices to see non-emergency procedures again in the State starting May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. We plan on opening up for normal business hours at this time with caution. Our patients have been rescheduled for over a month and dental needs have been postponed but these situations left untreated can lead to infection, pain, and more costly procedures. Our office will follow very strict guidelines put forth by the ADA, OKDA, OSHA and the CDC and believe the measures taken will greatly minimize any spread that could occur at our office. We will also be putting our own measures in place that we believe will further protect everyone. With the measures taken, we don't believe the risk will be greater at our office than any other public space. We still believe the risks are low to contract the virus and the risk of severe illness is even smaller. As a business, we have to assess the value of what we do for the community versus any risk that may ensue.

We also acknowledge that the most susceptible population are people over 65yrs of age and those with underlying health concerns such as respiratory issues, hypertension, kidney disease, and diabetes. Due to the increased risk of this population we are encouraging anyone in these categories to reschedule their appointment until the spread is further diminished.

We will be closely managing the schedule to continue to allow social distancing and will be thoroughly screening patients as they come in the door. Some people may be rescheduled if we think the procedure has potential for increased spread of COVID-19 or if we need to move people for social distancing purposes in the waiting room. You may also be rescheduled if you are older than 65.

If others accompany you to our office we would prefer them to remain outside of the office if possible. If you are a new patient please fill out any new patient forms online before your appointment.

We understand some people may disagree with our decision but we are using our best judgement to proceed. You have the choice to reschedule your appointment if you don't feel comfortable coming at this time and we will do our best to accommodate your request.

Phipps Dental Practice