Dear Patients;

We hope this letter finds you and your family in good health. Our community has been through a lot over the last few months, and all of us are looking forward to resuming our normal habits and routines. While many things have changed, one thing has remained the same: our commitment to your safety.

Infection control has always been a top priority for our practice and you may have seen this during your visits to our office. Our infection control processes are made so that when you receive care, it’s both safe and comfortable. We want to tell you about the infection control procedures we follow in our practice to keep patients and staff safe.

Our office follows infection control recommendations set forth by the American Dental Association (ADA), and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). We follow the activities of these agencies so that we are up-to-date on any new rulings or guidance that may be issued. We do this to make sure that our infection control procedures are current and adhere to each of the agency’s recommendations.

You may see some changes when it is time for your next appointment. We made these changes to help protect our patients and staff. For example:

* Only those patients with appointments are allowed into the office. **EXCEPTION**: Any minor children may be accompanied by **1** Parent only. Any siblings or other individuals must wait in their car.
* We **require** that each patient Adult and Children wear face masks into the office. Cloth masks are preferred in order to conserve on the medical/dental supply chain. If you do not bring your own mask, we will have them available to purchase for $5.00.
* As you enter the foyer, a dental assistant will take temperatures of each person who enters, and then she will ask you a series of pre-screening questions.
* After this is completed, you will be asked to use hand sanitizer (which we have throughout the office) BEFORE you come into the main office area.
* You will see that our waiting room will no longer offer magazines, children’s toys and so forth, since those items are difficult to clean and disinfect.
* Appointments will be managed to allow for social distancing between patients. That might mean that you’re offered fewer options for scheduling your appointment.
* We will do our best to allow greater time between patients to reduce waiting times for you, as well as to reduce the number of patients in the reception area at any one time.
* Due to the increased regulations and guidelines set forth by the Iowa Dental Board, a PPE charge of $10.00 will be added to each appointment going forward.

We look forward to seeing you again and are happy to answer any questions you may have about the steps we take to keep you, and every patient, safe in our practice. To make an appointment, please call our office at 247-7008.

Thank you for being our patient. We value your trust and loyalty and look forward to welcoming back our patients, neighbors, and friends.

Sincerely;

Dr. Jennifer Berst

Dr. Martin Berst