

March 20, 2020

UF College of Dentistry Patients,

As a member of our UF College of Dentistry patient community, we appreciate the trust you place in us for your care and want to inform you about how we are addressing concerns regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19).

All of our clinics follow strict Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines to prevent and control infections by cleaning surfaces, sterilizing instruments and wearing personal protective equipment to keep everyone — patients and caregivers, alike — safe. You can find more about the guidelines we follow for sterilization and disinfection practices [on the CDC website here](#).

In responding to any COVID-19 concern, we follow the same protocol we would with any other health and safety issue that may occur in our school or under our care. The safety of our patients and health care team is top priority, not just now, but every day. We follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and public health experts.

Our college has established protocols for evaluating staff who may have symptoms of a possible COVID-19 illness. These protocols are guided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the local Department of Health and UF Health experts in hospital epidemiology and infectious diseases. The Department of Health, or DOH, in coordination with UF Health then takes the appropriate steps to communicate with anyone who has come in contact with anyone who tests positive, while maintaining strict confidentiality as required by law. [More information about this process is available here](#).

Like many dental schools in the country, we are now treating urgent and emergency care patients only. We hope to return to normal operations in the near future and are confident in our ability to continue to provide excellent, comprehensive dental care in the way you have come to expect and deserve.

Thank you for your continued trust and loyalty as we work together to fight the spread of coronavirus and COVID-19 disease.

Sincerely,



Dean Isabel Garcia