

UPDATE ON OUR SAFETY PROTOCOLS

We recently received many phone calls from our patients asking about the safety protocols at our office in addition to what was already in place pre Covid-19. So we wanted to proactively address the extra precautions we have taken in order to mitigate the risks for our patients and staff.

- Plexiglass barrier in the reception area
- Enhanced cleaning measures above OSHA recommendations
- Fogger – (air sterilization through cold fogging)
- Air purifiers in every room
- Aerosol elimination systems for aerosol producing procedures
- All team members wearing appropriate PPE (masks, gloves, goggles, gowns, caps & face shields)

Aside from cleaning & disinfecting surfaces and sterilizing equipment between patients we also use a defogging machine as an added layer of precaution. Below is a brief description of the benefits and safety of cold fogging and EOS (Extra Oral Suction) machine/device.

COLD FOGGING

Why is Hypochlorous Acid the Best Solution to Use for Cold Fogging? Hypochlorous acid (HOCl), also known as electrolyzed water, is considered by the FDA to be “the form of free available chlorine that has the highest bactericidal activity against a broad range of microorganisms” (US FDA, 2015). HOCl has no toxic material disposal requirements and, according to the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard, is not considered to be hazardous waste, adding yet another advantageous element to HOCl use . The reason hypochlorous acid is such an effective oxidant is because it carries no electrical charge. In contrast, the hypochlorite ion (bleach) carries a negative charge. Because germ surfaces also carry a negative charge, they initially repel each other. It takes up to half an hour for bleach to do the job, whereas hypochlorous acid's lack of electrical charge allows it to penetrate the protective lipid barrier surrounding the viral particles quickly and to destroy the proteins in a matter of seconds.

How safe is it?

Hypochlorous acid, unlike chlorine bleach, is 100% safe, non-irritating and not corrosive. Various concentrations of hypochlorous acid are used in the food industry, for eye and wound care and as a surface disinfectant. So, if it gets on your skin or in your eyes, it will not burn. Even if it were accidentally ingested, it is non-toxic.

EXTRA ORAL SUCTION (EOS)

To complement our infection control process, we have added an Extraoral Dental Suction System which removes aerosols and droplets via a high speed suction system, a medical grade HEPA filtration system that removes particles down to 0.1 micron, and a medical grade UV light disinfectant inside the system to kill all viruses and bacteria that are trapped in the filter.

We are committed to your dental health and safety. Thank you for being our patient - we value your trust and loyalty.