

## **SUNY Broome Dental Hygiene Patient Information and COVID 19 Protocol**

The SUNY Broome Community College Dental Hygiene Clinic is open for dental hygiene care in a safe environment.

The Dental Hygiene Clinic is following the guidelines set forth from the New York State Department of Health (DOH), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The Dental Hygiene Clinic will limit the number of students, faculty, staff, and patients during a clinic session, allowing for maximum social distancing and minimizing risk.

As an accredited dental hygiene training facility, infection control has always been a top priority in our clinic. Our infection control protocol ensures state and federal guidelines are meticulously followed to protect our patients. Our professional grade sterilization facilities offer the highest-level of quality control available. We have taken further action to ensure your health and safety by establishing screening protocols for anyone who enters the Dental Hygiene Clinic, increasing personal protective equipment standards, adding protective shields at all clinic units, and enhancing cleaning practices.

To learn more about these initiatives and how they may impact your visit to the SUNY Broome Community College Dental Hygiene Clinic, please read the details below and visit this site for updates.

### **Screening Efforts**

- Patients will be prescreened when the appointment is scheduled.
- Patients will be prescreened again the day before when confirming appointments and will be instructed on how to present for their appointment.
- These screening checks help minimize your risk of exposing others to COVID-19 and help protect you as well.
- Individuals must always wear a face covering except when dental hygiene treatment is being provided. Individuals will also abide by social distancing protocol in the Decker Health Science Building. Face coverings are required to be worn when approaching the screening station. The Dental Hygiene Department will provide a face mask for individuals who arrive on campus without a face covering.

- Patients will call the clinic when they arrive on campus. Arrival times will be staggered to avoid congestion when checking in **(607-778-5015)**.
- Patients are screened again at the Decker Health Science Building Dental Hygiene entrance. A patient questionnaire is completed, and your temperature is taken with a touchless thermometer. After successfully passing the screening process, a dental hygiene student will escort you into the clinic.
- If an individual does not pass the screening check, they will be sent home and instructed to see their health care provider. After clearance from their health care provider, the patient can be reappointed.
- Patient fees remain the same but exact change is required. Cash or personal checks are accepted but credit cards are not.
- When treatment is complete, a dental hygiene student assistant will escort the patient out of the clinic.

These screening questions will be asked three times at the following intervals: when the appointment is made, the day prior to your appointment during the appointment confirmation phone call, and the day of your appointment before you enter the dental hygiene clinic. If you experience symptoms of COVID-19 or are diagnosed with COVID-19 within 2 days of your appointment, we ask that you call the clinic to let us know. We thank you for your patience and cooperation in completing these multiple screenings. While we understand these questions may be repetitive, please know that our extra efforts to promote the health and safety for everyone entering our facility.

### **Personal Protective Equipment**

Proper PPE including ASTM level 3 masks, gowns, gloves, and protective eyewear have always been a requirement for our students, faculty, and clinical staff working at dental hygiene clinic. We have increased PPE standards to include N95 respirators, face shields, shoe and head coverings. PPE selection is dependent on the services being provided.

### **Social Distancing.**

Patient appointments and entry into the building will be staggered to promote separation and minimize wait times in public areas. Signage will be present to remind people of social distancing. We have created designated care pathways in

certain hallways to keep traffic flowing in one direction and will limit close contact.

You will be required to use hand sanitizer upon entering the clinical area. After paying your clinic fee, you will be taken directly to your unit in the dental hygiene clinic.

### **Cleaning Practices**

While infection prevention has always been a top priority, the college is now taking extra precautions when it comes to cleaning our clinical facilities, waiting rooms, elevators, restrooms, and other public spaces to ensure everyone's safety. We are focusing on all high-touch areas and clean multiple times per day to make sure every area is continuously disinfected.

In addition, our dental operatories are meticulously cleaned after each patient appointment following infection control guidelines. All dental instruments are sterilized in our state-of-the-art instrument processing facility using professional grade sterilization techniques.

### **Visitor Restrictions**

The safety of you and your loved ones remains our top priority. For the protection of everyone, we are limiting admittance to only our patients and parents or guardians of minors being seen for treatment only.

Questions or Concerns:

Please call the Dental Hygiene Clinic if you have any questions or concerns. (607-778-5015) We appreciate you being a patient in our clinic and enhancing the educational process for our dental hygiene students.

### **Guideline references:**

- CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) Shares Recommendations Set Standard of Care  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/dental-settings.html>
- Occupational Safety and Health Association (OSHA) Relies on CDC Guidance

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/dentistry/>

- Organization for Safety Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP) Vision: Every dental visit is a safe visit  
<https://www.osap.org/topics-coronavirus-disease-covid-19>
- American Dental Association (ADA)  
<https://success.ada.org/en/practice-management/patients/infectious-diseases-2019-novel-coronavirus>
- American Dental Hygienists Association (ADHA)  
<https://www.adha.org/adha-interim-guidance-on-returning-to-work>
- New York State Dept. of Health Interim Guidance for Dentistry During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (Minimum Requirements – Must adhere to)  
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/DentistryMasterGuidance.pdf>

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