

Dear Patient

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. This unexpected time off has given us the opportunity to consider the things that are most important to us; I hope we have all become better prayer warriors. Dental offices in Louisiana have been mandated closed since mid March. Although we have been able to address limited emergencies, we realize this is not in the best interest of complete dental health (but a necessary, temporary compromise under the circumstances). We are delighted now to open our doors to once again be able to return to our primary mission: TO HELP PEOPLE ATTAIN A BEAUTIFUL, VIBRANT, HEALTHY MOUTH, LEADING TO A LONGER AND MORE ENJOYABLE LIFE!

The Louisiana Department of Health allowed dental offices to reopen last week. We delayed our reopening, however, to make sure we could do this safely. At the beginning of the covid outbreak, we donated most of our PPE (personal protective equipment) to our hospitals. It has taken us some time to replenish our supplies and implement new infection control protocols. Many of these changes will be readily apparent when you come in to our office.

Our office follows infection control recommendations made by the American Dental Association (ADA), 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 agencies' recommendations.

Some of the changes we have made to protect our patients and staff include:

- Our office will communicate with you beforehand to ask some screening questions. You'll be asked those same questions again when you are in the office. We will require you to wear a mask upon entering the office; hopefully you are doing this in your other outings as well.
- We will take your temperature with a touchless thermometer before you enter the office.
- We have hand sanitizer that we will ask you to use when you enter the office. You will also find some in the reception area and other places in the office for you to use as needed.
- You will see that our reception area will no longer offer magazines or the newspaper, since those items are difficult to clean and disinfect.
- Appointments will be managed to allow for social distancing between patients...we will reduce the number of people in the reception area at any one time.

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. Thank you for entrusting us with your dental care. We value our relationship and look forward to welcoming back our patient, neighbors, and friends.

Yours for health,

Steven Brooksher and Team