



*Department of Pediatric Dentistry
School of Dentistry*

To our valued patients and their families:

The Center for Pediatric Dentistry is offering a full range of patient services, including dental care under general anesthesia and dental care for children with special needs. The Center and the UW School of Dentistry remain fully committed to creating the safest possible environment to provide care, and this means that your child's dental visit may look different. We have made changes to clinical procedures and added new safety measures for your protection:

Teledentistry Appointments

We now offer teledentistry appointments. Depending on your child's needs, you may communicate virtually with one of our providers by sending photos and confer by telephone or through privacy-protected videoconferencing. If you are interested in setting up a teledentistry appointment, please call 206-543-5800 to reach our reception staff.

Masking of Staff, Patients and Visitors

All staff, patients, and visitors at our clinic must wear a mask to protect against COVID-19 transmission. For patients and visitors, we ask that you wear your own cloth face covers or personal masks to your visit. We will provide masks to patients and visitors who arrive without their own masks.

Hand Hygiene

Our patients' safety begins with hand hygiene. We will ask that you use hand sanitizer when you arrive for your visit. Our providers will wash their hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before they care for you.

Physical Distancing of Patients

We have reconfigured our check-in process, lobby, and our clinical areas to optimize and maintain physical distancing precautions.

Mandatory Screening of Staff

All UW School of Dentistry employees must complete an electronic attestation every day at the start of their shift to indicate that they do not have a fever or symptoms of any respiratory illness. Those employees who have symptoms of a respiratory illness are required to stay home until they have recovered completely.

Proactive Testing Prior to Surgery

All patients scheduled for dental procedures that generate the vapor known as aerosols (such as fillings or crowns and including all dental surgery procedures under general anesthesia) are tested for COVID-19 prior to the procedure. If a patient tests positive for COVID-19, the surgery will be postponed until the patient has fully recovered. For many patients, we can manage cavities conservatively without need for a dental restoration and COVID-19 test.



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Ongoing Efforts to Ensure the Highest Level of Safety

The UW is a national leader in the fight against COVID-19. We are fortunate to be a part of this incredible team, and we will continue to adapt our care practices to reflect the latest recommendations from virology and infectious disease experts at UW Medicine and the UW School of Dentistry. At all times we practice according to guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, Washington State Department of Health, and Seattle & King County Public Health.

You can find more information about our safety measures on our [website](#).

Thank you for choosing UW Pediatric Dentistry. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T Nelson".

Travis Nelson, DDS, MSD, MPH
Acting Chair
Department of Pediatric Dentistry
UW School of Dentistry

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary T. Chiodo".

Gary T. Chiodo, DMD, FACD
Professor & Dean
UW School of Dentistry