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Our team at North Idaho Family Dentistry wanted to personally share with you what our office has been doing in response to the Coronavirus, COVID-19, pandemic. The safety of our patients is always our priority, and we are very closely following the development of COVID-19 to ensure the safety of our patients and their families.

All staff members at North Idaho Family Dentistry have received medical and dental OSHA and CDC approved training on infection control and prevention of pathogen spread. Also, all equipment and instruments are sterilized above OSHA and CDC standards. As usual, sterilization equipment is monitored daily by certified staff and by an outside laboratory. Additionally, staff members with any signs or suspicions of sickness will be taking sick leave and not be present at the office.

Because our patient safety is our utmost priority, several precautions are being taken. Patients who have been shown to be at high risk such as the elderly or persons with compromising medical conditions, are being asked to reschedule to a later date or scheduled at a time with less people in the office if they have a dental emergency. Additionally, a patient's respiration and temperature will be evaluated upon being seated before any treatment is performed or drugs administered, and NIFD staff is asked not to shake hands.

In order to reduce disease transmission, patients who are sick or have been in contact with anyone who is sick are asked to reschedule. NIFD staff that are showing any symptoms or signs of COVID-19 are staying home and will not be at the office. Also, we are asking that only persons essential to the appointment are present. With anticipated decreased staff members present at the office and therefore possible increased wait times, patients will be asked if they would prefer to wait in their car and get a call.

Thank you for your help in reducing the impact of COVID-19 on families in our community, and we appreciate any suggestions or information to help us do our job better.