

COVID19 UPDATES FOR NORTHERN VIRGINIA DENTAL CLINIC OPERATIONS

The Northern Virginia Dental Clinic (NVDC) is pleased to announce that our clinics will resume operations on Monday June 1, 2020. The NVDC will resume operations in three phases as follows:

- Phase 1:** Continuation of rendering emergency/urgent care services (NVDC patients of record)
Extractions (non-surgical)
- Root Canal Therapy (primarily those individuals treated on an emergency basis during restricted operations and those on NVDC's endodontic waiting list)
- Phase 2:** All services offered in Phase 1, plus
New Patients Examinations
Restorative (fillings)
Oral Hygiene (hand scaling only – no use of ultrasonic scalers)
Prosthetics (dentures, partials, etc.)
- Phase 3:** All services offered in Phase 1 and 2, plus
Oral Hygiene (with limited use of ultrasonic scalers)
Surgical Extractions
Periodontal Services

NOTE: The timing of advancing from one phase to the next will be decided by NVDC management and its Board of Directors and will be dependent upon numerous factors associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic. NVDC will send updates as to when clinic operations will advance to the next Phase.

Upon resuming operations on June 1st, the NVDC will return to providing access to care to NVDC patients of record ONLY. During the restricted operation period, NVDC provided access to anyone requiring emergency services and waived all fees for emergency services rendered. However, effective June 1st, the NVDC will begin to charge its normal \$50 fee for each scheduled appointment (and additional fees associated for the fabrication of prosthetic appliances when those services are again offered in Phase 2).

Guidelines to determine if emergency care is warranted:

- Client is in pain which keeps them up at night.
- Client has swelling (face and/or neck).
- Client has an abscess (usually marked by a pimple type lesion in their mouth which secretes exudate or puss). Patient will usually have pain and possibly a foul taste in their mouth.
- Client has bleeding (this one is difficult determine, because some people with periodontal disease will have bleeding which isn't related to an emergency condition).

If there is any question whether an individual's symptoms warrant emergency care, we ask that you please contact the NVDC and speak to one of our staff members.

NVDC will only be rendering root canal therapy which can be performed in the clinic and does not require referral to a specialist (Endodontist).

Patient appointments will be scheduled for longer durations (75 min.) with adequate spacing for treatment to be completed and the dismissal of patients prior to the arrival of the next scheduled patients. This will also ensure adequate time for NVDC staff to thoroughly clean and disinfect each treatment room prior to treating another patient. This schedule will result in no more than three patients in the clinic at any given time and ensure social distancing.

NVDC staff will utilize all Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as recommended by the CDC, OSHA, ADA, VDA, and state and local health directives. We will also implement additional measures to minimize the creation and spread of aerosols produced during dental procedures to ensure the safety and well-being of our staff (paid and volunteers) and patients.

On behalf of the NVDC, I want to thank our partners for your understanding and patience as we navigate this health crisis. We hope that one day we can return to an operational level that will allow our program to serve more individuals.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Carmen Regan, Operations Manager (703-820-7170), Jeimy Fuentes, Clinic Supervisor at NVDC-Loudoun (571-323-9095), or Mr. Thomas Wilson, Executive Director.

We look forward to continuing our partnership/collaboration with you in service to our community.

Thomas Wilson,
Executive Director