

Dear Patients:

As a result of the media attention on the possible transfer of communicable diseases in medical and dental offices, we felt you would appreciate becoming acquainted with the routine procedures we use to protect your health. Since guidelines were first issued by the Center for Disease Control and the Occupational Safety and Health Agency, our office has met and in many areas exceeded their recommendations.

Instrument sterilization is performed under heat and pressure.

Our dental handpieces are heat sterilized after each use.

Disposable items are used whenever possible. Anesthetic cartridges and needles, air/water syringe tips, saliva suction tips, etc. are all discarded after one use.

Plastic barriers are in use throughout the office. This explains why so many items seem to be covered with plastic "baggies."

Before and after each patient, all work surfaces, lights, and units are disinfected with a strong bacteriocidal and viricidal agent.

New gloves are worn by the clinical staff for each patient. It is not uncommon to use several pairs of new gloves for a patient if the procedure is lengthy.

Training of our staff is an ongoing process with an in-office review of sterilization procedures as well as continuing education courses updating us on the latest techniques and standards.

You may rest assured that our commitment to you, our patients, demands that we employ every technological advancement as it becomes available to insure your health and well-being.

We look forward to seeing you at your next visit.