

PATIENT-INFORMATION

Dental treatments in the time of COVID-19

Dear patient,

COVID-19 has far-reaching consequences for our social lives. Dentistry is also very severely affected. Many patients are currently not sure whether to attend their appointments and undergo upcoming dental procedures. That's why comprehensive explanation is particularly important.

As a world-leading supplier of dental implants, we give top priority to the health and safety of customers and patients. This document is designed to help dentists explain the current situation.

So that you can better assess the general situation for your treatment with your own dentist, specialist or surgeon, we have compiled the following information for you. We have attached the utmost importance to giving you reliable information from trustworthy sources. Leading experts in implantology have supported us in this educational initiative: Professor Knut A. Grötz MD, DDS, PhD (GER) and Priv.-Doz. Eik Schiegnitz MD, DDS, PhD (GER).

We address the most important patient questions below:

How high is the risk of infection when visiting the dentist?

The risk to you as the patient of contracting the virus during a visit to the dentist is manageable because dentists and their teams are trained in the avoidance of germ transmission and infections and this is just one of their everyday challenges in medical practice. The following hygiene rules and regulations have been observed for a long time, and new ones have now been added:



- The basic hygiene regimen **that has been established in the treatment room for many years** serves as a highly effective infection barrier. For many years there have been no reports of infections with other known serious viral illnesses (hepatitis C, HIV, Ebola etc.) – either in patients or among the treatment teams.
- Besides, general **distancing rules** on entering the dental practice and in the reception and waiting area are highly recommended.
- Virus-positive patients and actual suspected cases are identified over the phone before the patients visit the practice and referred to specialist facilities that are equipped to deal with them. They are not treated together with healthy patients.



Should I postpone my treatment appointment?

We recommend to continue with your treatments as long as it is permitted according to the local health authority guidelines, so that you don't risk any adverse consequences for your health by delaying treatment. The internationally recognized Robert Koch Institute (GER) has not yet issued any recommendation to postpone dental treatments. Dentists and their teams are trained to weigh up the risk posed to individual patients by treatments and to take appropriate measures, particularly in these turbulent times.

It is perfectly understandable and logical that the current pandemic is causing fear and anxiety. Since it will probably remain with us for a long time, abstaining from all medically necessary visits to the dentist would definitely be the wrong decision at this time.

Trust your medical professionals.

What is the recommendation concerning surgical procedures, for example when the insertion of a dental implant is scheduled?

Basically, you should always follow your dentist's recommendation. Treatment delays can be associated with health risks. Your dentist is specialized in weighing up the advantages and disadvantages in your individual situation. There are currently no scientific reasons to refrain from implant treatments, provided the patient does not belong to a risk group or show the relevant symptoms. Please discuss the treatment plan with your dentist.

How can I as the patient help protect myself against infection?

You yourself can do a lot to avoid infection. The widespread general hygiene rules should be strictly observed, including when you visit the dental practice:



- Wear a face mask when using public transport to travel to and from the practice.
- Phone your dental office sufficiently in advance to let them know of any existing symptoms of illness. The subsequent course of action can then be decided jointly.
- Always cough and sneeze into a disposable tissue or your elbow.

Separate information leaflets summarizing the most important aspects for ideal treatment in these pandemic times have been produced for your dentist and the whole practice team. Talk about this subject calmly with your trusted dental team and seek their advice in all matters relating to your oral health.

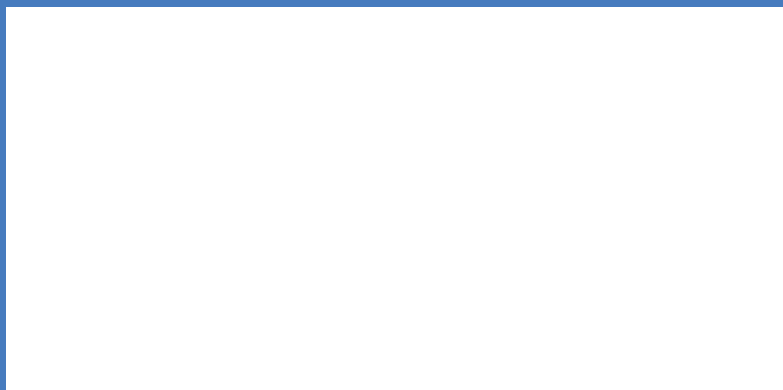
Always maintain good oral hygiene. A healthy mouth provides an effective immune barrier and strengthens the body's own defenses.

Please stay healthy!

Your Straumann Group

*This leaflet was produced with the kind support of
Professor Knut A. Grötz MD, DDS, PhD (GER) and Priv.-Doz. Eik Schiegnitz MD, DDS, PhD (GER).*





Practice stamp



You can find further information online at:
<https://www.straumann.com/group/en/patients.html>

Please note that governmental directives prevail over these recommendations. Please also note that these recommendations may evolve over time. Make sure to always use the most recent version and to keep yourself updated on any news, updates etc. These recommendations are based on the guidance given by governmental agencies aiming at protecting you, your employees and your patients. However, these recommendations do not give any guarantee that infection or transmission of the Coronavirus is in each and every case avoided. No entity of the Straumann Group shall be liable for any damages, costs, expenses etc. related to or arising from any guidance or recommendation given in this document.

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