



Our Dental Office Is Safe...Let Us Tell You Why!

At Lake Orion Family Dentistry the health and safety of both our patients and team are our top priority. It is, and continues to be, safe to visit this office.

The most frequently performed procedures in this dental office are not dental procedures themselves, but infection control procedures. They are known as *“universal precautions”* these precautions include, but are not limited to:

- We take an initial comprehensive medical and dental history of each patient that is updated with each visit.
- Our Clinical Team wears protective gloves, eyewear, surgical facemasks, and gowns as necessary. You are also protected with safety eyewear and disposable bibs;
- Changing gloves and regular hand washing with antimicrobial hand sanitizer;
- Using instruments/materials that can be disposed of after one use on patients, when indicated;
- To ensure that every set of instruments receives the same validated cleaning process, all instruments are first loaded into cassettes or baskets, and placed in an automated pre-sterilization system;
- All Instruments/headpieces are wrapped or placed in individualized sealed bags and then placed in a medical grade heat sterilization system, called an autoclave. This system is monitored monthly for performance by the **University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry**;
- Needles/blades are discarded in medical waste containers after each use in keeping with OSHA Requirements;
- All blood and tissue waste is separated and bagged as required by law, and then disposed of by Medihaul, a licensed medical waste hauler;
- All surfaces and equipment in the treatment room, sterilization area, and lab are thoroughly disinfected with a medical grade disinfecting disposable towelettes. Some equipment is covered with protective covers used for extra protection that are replaced after each patient visit;
- High-volume evacuation, proper patient positioning and rubber dams are used to limit contamination by splatter;
- All members of our clinical team receive mandated Hepatitis B vaccinations
- All members of our clinical team wear radiation/x-ray badges that monitor radiation exposure monthly.

These *“universal”* infection control procedures work. Their effectiveness in preventing the spread of infection is demonstrated by the fact that there has never been a confirmed case of either the *HIV* (AIDS) or *Hepatitis B* (infectious form) virus being transmitted through dental instruments.

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) does not remain alive for extended periods outside the body. It is easily killed by common disinfectants, including those used in this office.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) indicates that no studies exist that confirms the transmission of viruses such as Hepatitis B (HBV) or HIV through the dental handpiece or other dental equipment.

We encourage you to ask questions about our infection control procedures. Our patient's should be comfortable knowing that we are using all of the latest methods necessary to protect their health!