Patient Screening FAQs

What is the procedure for screening patients?
• Begin the patient screening process with standardized questions when the patient calls for an appointment.

• Include temperature readings as part of your routine assessment of patients prior to performing dental procedures.

CDC recommends healthcare facilities, including dental offices, screen patients before proceeding with an appointment. Information to take note of:

• Any individual who exhibits or reports signs of acute respiratory illness such as coughing, fever and shortness of breath.
• Recent travel to any locations that have a Level 3 Travel Health Notice for COVID-19. Verify when the patient returned to the United States. If the patient reports that at least two weeks have passed since their return from one of the identified regions and no symptoms have presented, the dental office can proceed with the appointment. When local, state or federal public health officials declare the disease is at the community level, screening for travel is not necessary.
• Close contact with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19.
• Dentists may also send a notice advising patients who are experiencing acute respiratory illness to remain home and reschedule appointments.

If a patient has or had COVID-19, how long should the patient wait before dental procedures can be performed without risking transmission?
• That is unknown at this time. It has been recommended that patients with SARS wait for at least one month.