

Effective June 2020

Dear Valued Patients,

We miss your children deeply as their smiles, energy and bounce brightened our day. It is because of our love for your children that we have made the agonizing decision to recommend you to seek care for children under the age of 16 at a pediatric dental practice at this time.

Originally we planned to transition children back into the schedule by return to school time or when we were in Phase 4 of the Massachusetts reopening guidelines. However, we are still at half capacity with our hygienists and are still rescheduling adult patients from our three months of closure. Due to restrictions at this time, we have roughly half the capacity to see patients due to distancing and gathering regulations (previously children, siblings and parents came together). Extra time needs to be allotted for more thorough sanitization, which makes children's appointments not feasible. Unlike pediatric practices, we have also divided the office into compartments. We can no longer move freely through the building to do hygiene checks for families or communicate with parents afterwards. We do not have the capacity to use a parking lot as a waiting room, and parents are not allowed to wait inside the building. We have already experienced challenges when treating pediatric emergencies during and after our closure due to no parents in the office, our new mandatory PPE and the restrictions set by the state.

I have spoken to several local pediatric dental colleagues, who have been able to concentrate on setting up systems to more adequately treat children. These practices do not have the added stress of protecting a higher risk population of older and sometimes highly immunocompromised patients. The majority of our patient base consists of adults and older adults and although we are pained to make this decision, these are the people that we need to prioritize during this unprecedented time.

We will of course assist in any way possible to ease this transition. Please do not hesitate to call the office with any dental related questions until another provider is able to be secured for your child. I have spoken to the offices below, who have some availability to see younger patients.

We are very sorry to our loyal families to have to make this unexpected decision. We hope that you will understand that it was an extremely difficult call to make.

lorna lally, dmd

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