

Good evening,

We began providing non-emergency care in an additional 59 offices yesterday. We now have 65 offices reopened. In the next couple of weeks, even more offices will reopen. That is great news for our dental teams and our patients who need our care. As more of us return to our offices, I want to provide additional details regarding PPE and the engineering controls we are implementing to mitigate the risk in your office.

- Air filtration units were sent to your office. The number of units for each office is dependent on the square footage of your office, the number of operatories, and your office layout. You should receive one unit for every other operatory, and an additional unit for your front desk/waiting area. Please position the units to best suit the layout of your specific office. Prior to using the units for the first time, you must remove the plastic wrap around the internal filter and review the instructions for operation.
- The face shields that were sent out to you have replaceable plastic shields. You can reorder replacement plastic via the procurement team. One style of shields require the holes to be punched and that is best placed with a standard 3-hole punch. If your office does not have a 3-hole punch, please order one thru the Staples website with your regular office order or purchase one locally. Due to the additional PPE clinicians are wearing including respirators and head coverings that trap heat, there may be an adjustment period to wearing the face shield. We intentionally selected a lightweight face shield to assist with your comfort.
- Respirators have generated a numbers of questions, including which one you should wear. Prior to resuming regular patient care, your office will be sent a new supply of N95 respirators. These respirators are manufactured by 3M and are NIOSH approved. These are the ones you must wear. The KN95 respirators that were previously sent out to all offices should be set aside until we obtain further verification of those respirators. As offices are resupplied with respirators, the 3M model you receive may change, but its use will remain the same.
- We have developed a second version of the Employee FAQ document. The FAQ is located on the reopening section of the employee COVID-19 website. Bookmark <https://midwest-dental.com/reopening-plans/> for the most current information. Please refer to this document before reaching out. We want to ensure you receive a timely response to questions not answered in the FAQ and are confident that most answers can be found in this document. The FAQ's as well as the other COVID 19 resource documents are in a folder on the desktop of the work stations in each office.

The safety of you and our patients is our number one concern. Our care teams really are the real heroes. I appreciate all of your efforts as we reopen our practices to non-emergency patient care.

Have a safe and fun holiday weekend.

Take care,

Dr. Elizabeth Rydell