



Arkansas Department of Health

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Steps to take if a staff member tests positive for COVID-19

It is generally assumed that all dental personnel (DHCP) are being screened daily when arriving to the dental facility. A daily log for monitoring purposes should also be part of office protocols in the event contact tracing is necessary should a team member, or patient, report a positive COVID-19 test result (example included).

Any patient or staff member that reports signs or symptoms related to COVID-19 should be sent to the most convenient local testing facility; it is advisable to call ahead before arriving.

- A patient that tests positive should not be treated for 14 days and has met criteria as 'recovered'. The exception are patients reporting pain that requires immediate attention;
 - Such emergency patient may be treated if all precautions are taken as outlined previously in the ADH guidelines;
 - The positive patient must be seen for emergency care at the end of the day to eliminate potential viral spread to other patients.
- Any staff member that tests positive for COVID-19 are to not return to the dental facility until 14 days have passed from the time the test was conducted;
 - An essential staff member may return to work after 10 days providing:
 - Works in an isolated work area apart from other employees;
 - No longer show symptoms;
 - Always wears a mask, allowing 10-minute breaks every two hours outside the facility or to eat.

Again, the general assumption is that all staff members are following office protocols and wearing the appropriate mask for their work environment. Should an employee test positive for COVID-19, it is advisable that all dental team members seek testing at the most convenient local testing facility; highly recommended to call ahead before arriving. Any other positive cases need to self-isolate for 14 days. Continue monitoring for symptoms and increase temperature check intervals at arrival, mid-day and at the conclusion of the day for the next 10 days following the report of a positive test result of the employee who has been excluded. Should a dental facility have more than one DHCP testing positive, contact tracing protocols may be deemed necessary on a case-by-case decision implemented through the Office of Oral Health.

