

# IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PATIENTS

The staff at Gearhart Dentistry cares deeply for its patients and the wonderful people of the community in which we live. In order to do our part in making socially responsible decisions that impact our staff, patients, loved ones, and surrounding community members during the COVID-19 outbreak, we are **TEMPORARILY CLOSING through the 31<sup>st</sup> of March**. At that time, we will reassess the situation and determine the best course of action to take moving forward.

This decision was made after careful consideration following the recommendation from the Oregon Dental Association to consider postponing all elective procedures and non-urgent visits.

We regret that we must restrict our patient care this way. Gearhart Dentistry is doing its part to protect our community by following the advice of the Oregon Dental Association, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and OSHA.

Responsible decision making and prevention under these difficult circumstances is paramount. In doing this, we will safeguard the health and safety of our patients, our care providers, and the whole community. We appreciate your understanding during this challenging time and thank you for your cooperation. With appropriate planning and making these tough decisions, we are doing our part to decrease the impact on COVID-19 on our community. We are all in this together and will persevere.

If you have concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. If you are quarantined, and in need of assistance (food, supplies, etc.) let us know. We would be honored and will attempt to help in any way that we can.

If you have an appointment scheduled prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 at Gearhart Dentistry for routine dental treatment (such as a checkup or cleaning or a filling), ***the appointment is canceled and we will work with you to reschedule it. We are now restricting treatment to urgent or emergency care only.*** See below for more specific details.

***Urgent or emergency care for patients of record at Gearhart Dentistry*** will be provided at Dr. White's discretion if she determines the need is urgent and only if the patient passes the COVID-19 health screening. If screening is not passed, the staff at Gearhart Dentistry will work with your primary care provider or other urgent care

personnel to determine the best course of action and proper place for treatment. To be seen for urgent needs, you must have one or more of these conditions:

- Severe toothache pain (not just a twinge)
- Bleeding in your mouth that does not stop
- A broken tooth that is causing severe pain (not one that is chipped)
- Dental infections causing terrible pain to the point where it interferes with sleep and not managed with over-the-counter pain medication
- A serious oral infection—if there is swelling around your jawline or under your mouth and associated difficulty in breathing or swallowing

**PLEASE RESPECT THE GUIDELINES SET FORTH FOR “URGENT CARE” AS WE DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE N-95 RESPIRATORS REQUIRED BY OSHA FOR THE PROTECTION OF OUR STAFF DURING DENTAL CARE DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK.**

If you do require urgent care, ***please do not come in without first calling Gearhart Dentistry at 503-738-9273. Alternatively, email Dr. White with concerns about emergency dental needs: [drwhite@gearhartdentistry.com](mailto:drwhite@gearhartdentistry.com)***