



Infection control has always been a top priority for our college. The University of Illinois (UIC) College of Dentistry (COD) follows infection control recommendations made by the American Dental Association (ADA), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). We follow the activities of these agencies so that we are up-to-date on new rulings or interim guidance. We do this to make sure that our infection control procedures are current and adhere to agency recommendations.

You will see changes when you to return to the College of Dentistry. Please review just some of the mechanisms that are being undertaken for your safety.

Your Role to Play in Keeping Safe

All College of Dentistry members have a role to play in slowing the spread and protecting themselves and their colleagues while in the workplace:

Physical (Social) Distancing



Social distancing, also called “**physical distancing**,” means maintaining physical space between yourself and other people outside of your home.

- Practice physical distancing by: Staying at least 6 ft. from other people. Avoiding congregating with more than 10 people in lines or groups.
- Wear a facemask in the building at all times except when eating or alone in a private office.
- Do NOT have in-person meetings unless there is no alternative. Keep in-person meetings to < 5 people and maintain physical distancing of at least 6 ft. when meeting in person.
- Use alternative methods to communicate, such as email, telephone and video conferencing applications.
- Consider walking or biking to work. If a train car or bus is too crowded, wait for the next one.
- Avoid all nonessential inter/intra-campus travel.
- Avoid clustering in confined spaces building entrances.

- Increase space between workstations whenever possible. Rotate desks to face the same direction (rather than facing each other) to reduce transmission caused from virus-containing droplets (e.g., from talking, coughing, sneezing).
- Avoid using others' phones, desks, offices, or other tools and equipment, when possible. If necessary, clean and disinfect them before and after use.
- Avoid hand-shaking. Use other noncontact methods to greet coworkers, customers, or others.

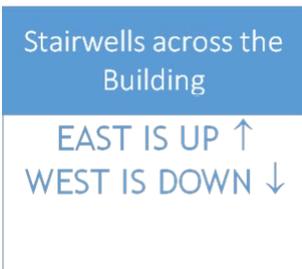
Enhanced housekeeping services at the COD

Public space such as entrances, corridors, lounges, elevators/escalators, classroom, offices, and stairwells are receiving additional attention.

- High-touch surfaces (3x/day): doors, knobs/handles, push plates, elevator buttons, escalator and stair rails, water fountains
- Tables, Chairs
- Countertops
- Touch screens
- Floors
- Restrooms

General Administrative Controls on the College Building

- Single Employee Entrance: Entry to Building: South (Ortho) door entry for all COD members (staff member present from 7:30AM-3:30PM taking temperatures).
- Single Patient Entrance: Entry to Building: Paulina door entry for all patients/visitors/deliveries (staff member present from 7:30-3:30PM taking temperatures).
- New Paulina storefront doors will have separate signage for entry and exit to building
- Anyone entering the building with observed COVID-19 symptoms or fever greater than 100.4 will be asked to leave and to contact their primary physician for guidance
- The Marshfield door will remain locked to entry with no swipe access (exiting is acceptable)
- The use of facemasks is mandatory upon entry, and in all public places in the building: protection for other people, in case you are infected because could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick.
- Alcohol based hand sanitizer stations are being added throughout building, including entry to all clinics.
- Signage placed throughout the building (i.e., do you have COVID risk?, Cover your cough, etc.).
- Elevator Maximum four occupants with "corner" signage on in elevator and on floor.



- Note One-Way traffic in Stairwells: West stairways identified “down only”, East stairways “up only.”
- Signage throughout building and in clinic areas, front desks that will have social distancing and masking reminders, cover your cough, “stand here” appliques added to floor, elevator etiquette, etc.
- Reduction in the number of College personnel in an area to minimally necessary by staggering assignments, and consider cross training.

Clinical Administrative Controls

- Pre-screening of all patients for COVID-19 risk one day prior to appointment, and again on day of appointment.
- All patient temperatures must be taken again in clinic, and patients must use hand sanitizer upon entry to clinic and departure as well.
- Reduction in the number of accompanying individuals
- Reduction of the number of patients in waiting areas by staggering appointments and seating the patient promptly.
- Reception Rooms will not have any extraneous materials (i.e., magazines, etc.) and chairs should be eliminated or blocked off to reduce proximity of individuals. Cloth based chairs have been removed from the reception rooms for the time being.
- Creation of teams to reduce the encounters between teams.
- Reducing face-to-face encounters by utilizing tele-health and phone communication whenever feasible (i.e., pre-screening, consultations, payments over the phone, pre-registration completed prior to patient coming to the building).
- Mandatory review of CDC Standard Precautions for faculty/staff/students and additional Training Program for PPE Donning/Doffing/Disinfection, etc.
- Signage in all clinical units including disinfection protocols, donning and doffing reminders
- Utilize College COVID 19 FAQ (intranet) and University Health if questions of exposure, etc.
- Contact the Office of Clinical Affairs for guidance with regard to exposures or exposure risk (patients/provider/staff/faculty). University Health will perform contact tracing.

Engineering Controls

- Public areas, including the commons, will have furniture reduced and separated to encourage distancing.
- Publicly used computers (i.e., fourth floor, clinic bay areas) will be removed.

- Housekeeping services will be more visible, and enhanced for all areas, focusing on frequently touched surfaces, restrooms, etc. while using OSHA approved disinfectants.
- Office occupants who prefer not to have housekeeping services will have signage available to place on their door.
- Ventilation system is under review by the UIC engineers and the College of Engineering to evaluate airflow, filtration and other HVAC-based cleaning systems.
- Desk and counter surfaces should be cleared of unnecessary items that will limit disinfection of surfaces. Areas to consider are front desk and office personal photos, items, and at clinical units.
- Standard OSHA disinfection protocols for clinical areas are mandatory, and available for review on the intranet.
- Barriers at front desks are being considered.
- Reduction in the number of clinical units being used simultaneously, and patients separated as much as possible.
- Utilization of high speed evacuation with assistance when performing procedures that create aerosols.
- Utilization of rubber dam and isodry system whenever possible.
- Minimization of ultrasonic equipment by using hand instruments.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- All providers/faculty and staff actively engaged in patient care in the clinic must wear gown, gloves, eye protection (goggles and/or face shield), level II or III, N95 or KN95 mask. Head covering will not be mandated, but encouraged.
- If feasible, street clothes should be worn to and from COD, and change to scrubs at start of day, and used scrubs brought home in a secure bag for laundering. This may not be possible for many areas due to space limitation for changing.
- Front desk clerks/clinic managers (not engaged in clinical activities) must wear an examination mask, eye protection or face shield, and provided hand sanitizer (may wear gloves if desired) and disinfection wipes.
- Non-clinical and non-public facing personnel at the COD (i.e., HR, Billing, IT) should wear cloth masks when outside of one's private work space.

We look forward to seeing you again and are happy to answer any questions you may have about the steps we take to keep you, our valued College of Dentistry members, and every patient, safe at our college.