

May 2020

Dear Fresno City College Dental Hygiene Patients,

Thank you for being a patient in the Fresno City College Dental Hygiene Clinical Skills Lab. Your participation as a patient allows students to apply dental hygiene skills they learn during their educational process. Please know you are valued, appreciated and your continued dental hygiene care is important to us.

Please read the following information to learn what to expect when the Fresno City College Dental Hygiene (FCC DH) Skills Lab (clinic) re-opens for dental hygiene services.

In mid-March, the coronavirus pandemic, COVID-19, interrupted educational programs, as well as your dental hygiene treatment. FCC closed and all course work moved to online instruction. Clinical instruction, however, requires hands on, face to face contact between students, patients and faculty. The hope is that the coming weeks will allow the clinic to re-open so 2020 graduating DH students can complete interrupted patient treatments and complete requirements needed for program graduation and subsequent licensure as a Registered Dental Hygienist.

With this in mind, initial steps are being considered for re-opening the Dental Hygiene Skills Lab. Re-opening will need the approval of many entities including, but not limited to, the Governor of California, Centers for Disease Control (CDC), American Dental Association (ADA), California Department of Health and the FCC Administration.

Since 1972, the FCC DH Program has provided optimal DH care to the local community. Over time, numerous contagious diseases have occurred and COVID-19 will most likely not be the last, as a result, new operational changes are required to meet the challenges of emerging diseases especially in the area of infection control.

The FCC DH Program has consistently met these challenges and exceeded the Standard of Care recommendations for safe DH practice through strict adherence to current infection control recommendations as outlined by the CDC, OSHA, ADA, CDA, CDPH.

In addition to the FCC DH Program's current Infection Control Guidelines, you will see an additional layer of protection when the Skills Lab re-opens. COVID-19 spreads easily so please stay home if you have any of these signs, symptoms and/or factors:

- Cough
- Fever
- Shortness of breath or difficulty
- Chills
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Recent travel (in the past two weeks) to an area and/or place where COVID-19 is widespread
- Direct contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19

Please, wear a face mask to your appointment.

Please, do not bring others with you to your appointment, as only a designated number of individuals will be allowed in the DH Skills Lab. Only the patient receiving treatment, the DH student clinician and faculty will be permitted in the DH Skills Lab.

Please, arrive 10-15 minutes before your scheduled appointment. An attendant will meet you outside the Health Science building to perform a preliminary, safe and private evaluation of your health status. Your temperature will be taken before you enter the Health Science building.

A series of questions regarding COVID-19 will be asked as stated previously.

Once in the DH Skills Lab, DH student clinicians, patients, faculty and staff will adhere to the recommended 6 feet social distancing protocol.

You will be asked to perform a pre-procedural rinse with a peroxy and/or antimicrobial mouth rinse for 60 seconds. During treatment, you may be asked to rinse again. Some studies show a reduction in virus and bacterial virility during dental hygiene treatment.

In addition to the personal protective equipment (PPE) currently required for students, patients and faculty, DH students and faculty will wear hair coverings and face shields throughout the entire appointment.

These guidelines are a start to our planning process and may be added to and/or changed by the time the DH Skills Lab is allowed to re-open. The intent is to use best practices as they are announced to maintain a safe practice environment for our valued patients, our hard-working dental hygiene student clinicians and our dedicated DH faculty.

As California "opens up" and information becomes available, the Dental Hygiene Program will post an update.

Sincerely,



Fred Thomas, ROH MSA

Fresno City College

Instructor, Clinic Lead, Infection Control Officer



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Dental Hygiene, Program Director