

Dear Patients and Friends,

I have spent the weekend trying to sort through information on COVID-19.

As of today, March 16, 2020 the MDA (Michigan Dental Association) has issued a special alert. The recommendation is that Michigan dentists close their offices beginning March 17, 2020 for at least 2 weeks. Suggested treatment would be offered to patients requiring emergency care.

I have been relying on many evidence- based resources for the latest information to keep my patients, my team, and community safe.

**Due to the unique nature of dental procedures, a large number of droplets and aerosols could be generated. The standard protective measures we use in clinical work are not effective enough to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This is especially important when patients are in the incubation period, unaware they are infected, or choosing to conceal their infection.**

To protect ourselves during treatment, OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) recommends the use of personal protective equipment. This equipment includes: masks, gloves, gowns, goggles or face shields. These items protect our skin and mucosa from potentially infected materials. Respiratory droplets are the main route of transmission, particulate respirators (N-95 or FFP2 masks) are recommended for routine dental practice. However, N-95 masks and gowns are backordered and not available at this time.

Based on the science and current evidence, our universal precautions are not a safe guard against COVID-19. I am choosing to close our office until Monday March 30, 2020. We will monitor the situation as events arise, and hope this will get us through the current crisis.

As a patient, we want you to be safe. I would rather be proactive and careful. I assure you **this decision was not made lightly**. Dentistry has always been focused on prevention. We are trying to be at the forefront of preventative measures.

We will be available by phone 989-792-7461 or email [kevinbone@yourbrilliantmile.com](mailto:kevinbone@yourbrilliantmile.com) if you have any questions or concerns. We will be happy to reschedule your appointment once this crisis has passed.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation. Please be safe. We will get through this together.

Sincerely,

Kevin Bone, DDS