



Hello all! As our county has now passed a higher threshold of transmission to the second highest stage, the team at Smiles on Niles is reinstating some of our original COVID-19 protocol:

1. **Everyone in the lobby must be masked, regardless of your vaccination status.** Back in the treatment area, you may see our staff unmasked if they are vaccinated and social distancing. We are masked nearly the entire day anyway, regardless of COVID, so that is nothing new for us. Luckily, masking for dental professionals is old hat, but we ask that you all keep yourselves and your fellow man/woman/child safe.
2. **Only the patient is to be in the office.** For minors, we ask that only one parent is present at the appointment, unless previously approved. Any care givers or drivers, please stay in your car during most of the appointment. If for any reason this is a problem, please let us know so we can accommodate appropriately.
3. **If you arrive to your appointment early, please do not come in until your scheduled appointment time.** At your appointment time, please enter with a mask and do your best to social distance in our lobby. We have tried hard to arrange the lobby to allow for social distancing when possible. If we are ready for you early and see you in the parking lot, we may come get you 😊!

4. If we don't know your vaccination status already, we will be asking you once in your treatment room. This is for your medical record only. Your answer can be "yes," "no," or "I prefer not to share of vaccination status." We are required to ask for our safety.
5. On a personal note, I am currently 6 months pregnant. Please remember that the safety of myself and my unborn child are my number one priority right now. I know that we are doing our best to make this world a better and safer place for my baby boy and our own beautiful families. (Yes, it's a boy!)
6. If you forget a mask, the front desk will have one for you!

We want to thank you all again for navigating this experience with us as your dental care team. We love each other and all of you, and every day we worry about our and your safety. We want to bring you the safest dental care possible! Also, we feel communication is key. It is important to us that you know that we are constantly thinking about COVID safety and plan to keep you informed every step of the way.

Thank you,

Dr. Anjana Gupta, Dr. Soo Sim, and our staff

Note: Dr. Lisa McShane will be filling in for Dr. Gupta's maternity from November to January.