



SWC Returns Dental Hygiene Program Fall 2021

As Southwestern College continues its phased reopening, the Dental Hygiene Program will adhere to established College policies, procedures, and practices, during the transition back to in-person instruction. The Dental Hygiene Program is committed to ensuring a safe and healthy environment for learning and working. The Dental Hygiene Program will continue to adhere to Center for Disease Control and Cal/OSHA guidelines, as well as recommendations for the provision of dental care from the American Dental Association and the California Dental Association.

Vaccines are required for all employees and students accessing in-person instruction and services this fall 2021 semester. Medical and religious exemptions will be allowed.

Visitors and the public will not be required to document their vaccination status but will be required to always wear a mask while on any Southwestern College premise.

Students enrolled in the Dental Hygiene Program will continue to follow the health and safety protocols approved by County Public Health Office that have been in effect since the beginning of the pandemic.

Dental Hygiene Program COVID-19 Protocols:

The Dental Hygiene Program has created infection control instructional modules available through the Canvas on-line learning platform for students, faculty, staff, and administrators of the program. Students will be required to complete each module and pass a post-test prior to engaging in clinical activities. The modules allow for remediation/review as needed. Additionally, an on-site review of all processes prior to starting patient care is provided to students. The modules include information on the following:

- COVID-19 Clinic Protocol Module Instructions
- Final-COCA-Call-Slides_06-03-2020
- Hand Hygiene and Cough/Sneeze Etiquette
- ppe-sequence.CDC-1.pdf
- Donning & Doffing PPE
- NIOSH-CDC Respirator Approval
- ADA Review of Dental Guidelines
- ADHA Task Force FAQ
- California Department of Public Health
- Posters/Signage
- Screening Procedures
- CDA Patient Screening Form
- Vaccination for Prevention
- HIPAA Refresher
- Clinical Protocol Post-Test

The Dental Hygiene Program has taken steps to encourage all persons (patients, faculty, students, and staff) to adhere to prevention practices while inside the facility.

- Visual alerts (e.g., signs, posters) have been posted at the entrance and in strategic places to provide instruction about hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette. Instructions include the requirement of wearing a face mask.
- Supplies for respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette, including masks, hand sanitizer, tissues, disinfecting wipes, and no touch receptacles for disposal at entrances and patient check-in have been provided.
- Plastic physical barriers have been installed in the clinical areas to limit close contact between individuals and treatment areas.
- All frequently touched items (e.g., toys, magazines) have been removed from the waiting room.
- A physically distanced waiting area has been created with easy access to respiratory hygiene supplies.

Dental Hygiene Program Patient COVID-19 Screening Procedures:

The Dental Hygiene Program will continue to screen all patients entering the facility for fever and symptoms consistent with COVID-19.

- Document absence of symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
- Actively take the temperature of all patients entering the facility. Fever is defined as measured temperature $\geq 100.0^{\circ}\text{F}$.
- Any individual presenting symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be dismissed and directed to self-quarantine and contact their physician.

Dental Hygiene Program Infection Prevention and Control Measures During COVID-19:

The Dental Hygiene Program will continue to abide by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines to include but not limited to the implementation of universal sources control measures, the encouragement of physical distancing, the implementation of universal use of personal protective equipment, and the use of engineering controls to improve indoor air quality.

The Dental Hygiene Program has established entry and exit patterns to eliminate waiting in lines at check-in and check-out. Social distancing will be maintained during entry and exit. A glass partition in the reception area separates the front desk from the waiting room. Students will greet their patients once screened and escort them straight to the dental operatory. Chairs in the clinic facility have been sectioned with barriers in-between. Engineering controls have been reviewed to ensure proper ventilation to maintain a controlled environment. The clinic facilities coordinator will ensure instruments are sterilized using all appropriate precautions necessary to maintain infection control guidelines.

Students will perform dental hygiene procedures using gauze for tissues and high-speed suctioning mirrors/devices. A 100% hydrogen peroxide solution will be provided to patients for pre- and post-care rinse. If procedures are performed that generate aerosols, additional precautionary measures are employed such as fogging, intra-oral high-volume evacuation devices, and extra-oral aerosol suction units.

Students, staff, and faculty will don and doff the appropriate PPE according to the CDC guidelines and ADA recommendations. The process is included in the training module the students are required to study prior to clinic entry/treating patients. The clinic will be decontaminated following the CDC guidelines including allowing a minimum of 15 minutes in between patients.

I am confident we have a well thought out plan for securing the safety of all persons involved in clinical care.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gay V.S. Teel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "G".

Gay V.S. Teel, RDH, MA Director- Dental Hygiene
Southwestern College HEC NC