



## **2021 CONSIDERATIONS FOR SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL MOBILE CHARITABLE CLINICS**

(10-1-20)

In the wake of 2020's COVID-19 pandemic, various guidance has been offered by health organizations on how to deal with day-to-day life, including dental settings.

With these various guidance measures in mind, and with the understanding that such guidance is fluid and changeable, ADCF is offering our considerations for the clinic floor area that we support with our equipment in the pursuit of safe and successful charitable dental clinics going forward.

Considerations are also being offered for the many areas of your clinic *where ADCF is not directly involved with our equipment* but are areas that we've had discussions about with various clinic leaders during the pandemic. These clinic areas will need to be managed at your local level based on your state, county, and city guidance. *Please consider additional volunteers for the parking lot and triage areas for pre-entrance temperature checks and health screening Q&A for patients.*

ADCF is committed to safety for both patients and volunteers. It is our firm belief that PPE and safety guidance provided by state or local authorities, OSHA and the most current CDC guidance should be implemented and followed in all clinics.

As any new information and/or guidance presents itself, ADCF will alter our considerations accordingly. These updates will be available on our website ([www.adcf.net](http://www.adcf.net)) and will be posted on social media as needed.

### 1. Inside the Clinic (ADCF-supported space)

- a. Have clinic volunteers place 6-foot distancing marks (perhaps signage, as well) on clinic floor for all present, from patient entrance to exit throughout the clinic.
- b. Limited patient waiting on clinic floor – distancing measures in place with waiting chairs
- c. Dental chair distancing: changed from the old 6 feet distance to 10 feet on one row.
  - i. Rows now two tables wide v. one table wide for head-to-head distancing on opposite sides of rows.
- d. Safety walls/separators between patient stations (as per guidance, if any, by local health dept. jurisdictions). These will be procured by the local organization. ADCF can provide consultation on measurements and floorplans to assist the organization as they plan this aspect of the clinic if they choose to place such separators.
- e. Aerosol management efforts
  - i. As of this writing, ADCF will provide Mr. Thirsty intraoral aerosol management devices to be used with HVE.
  - ii. Pre-rinse *all* patients, vs. just hygiene, as a precautionary measure (local decision).
- f. Hand sanitizing stations
  - i. As set by state/local guidelines, place hand sanitizing station at end of each row and in various places throughout clinic.
  - ii. Signage in bathrooms as reminder to wash hands with soap for 20 seconds.



## **CONSIDERATIONS BEYOND ADCF's CLINIC SUPPORT SPACE**

ADCF has been asked for our thoughts on protocols that organizers may want to keep in mind as they plan. These are suggestions based on what is being discussed among multiple states as of this writing. It is recommended that each clinic utilize PPE, especially as it pertains to aerosol generating procedures, according to the most recent federal, state, and local guidance.

1. Pre-clinic promotion materials (social media, website, fliers, etc.):
  - g. For all: "WHAT WE'RE DOING FOR YOUR SAFETY" statement to bolster confidence in all attendees. ADCF can work with the local organizations on what we are doing which can be added to how the local group is handling things and promote it.
  - h. For patients: "PERSONAL FACE COVERING REQUIRED" in order to be present at clinic and come alone to the clinic if possible. Each clinic will need to set their own guidelines for guests or family members with individual patients.
    - i. Require patients to bring their own face covering (personal face coverings are now part of everyday life and people are used to having their own).
    - ii. Clinics may choose to provide these or have them available for those without.
2. Pre-clinic preparation for patients (decision made by local clinic leadership):
  - a. Off-site dental triage: Triage patients in advance (30-45 days strongly considered by some clinics currently)
    - i. Send out promo material as before (social services orgs, churches, etc.) of when clinic is taking place and how/where triage will be scheduled along with all requirements to be seen (i.e. requiring a mask and coming alone when possible).
    - ii. Load triaged patients into software program to optimize organization & minimize paperwork.
  - b. Continue historic protocol of Liability Waiver signed by each patient. Consider guidance of local legal counsel to add verbiage specific to COVID-19 if deemed appropriate.
3. Outside the Clinic:
  - a. Signage: MASKS REQUIRED to be present at clinic (see #1 above)
  - b. Distancing of patients could start in the parking lot...triated patients could wait in cars and be called to come in at the appropriate time.
    - i. Additional parking for patients and additional volunteers/security for crowd control
    - ii. For patients that arrive by public transportation a separate area would need to be created with distancing marked
  - c. Sidewalks taped at 6 feet by volunteers
  - d. Temperature checks and symptom screening Q&A before getting in line.



- e. On-site medical triage:
    - i. In addition to standard historical medical triage, do temperature checks again at medical triage if required by local jurisdictions.
    - ii. Post-triage, have patients wait in cars (or anywhere that distancing can happen if they don't have a car) with their patient number
      - 1. Text message or call patients to alert them it is time to come in
4. Patient Exit
- a. Continue all distancing protocols as exit surveys are completed
    - i. Local leadership could consider if exit surveys are necessary in the near-term post-pandemic environment
  - b. One last verbal reminder to exiting patients to maintain distancing as they leave the premises.
    - i. "If you feel ill within 48 hours of leaving today, call (local health agency in clinic area) to seek follow up care."