

Orthodontic Procedure Risk Assessment

As we anticipate getting back to work, we recognize that open bay treatment areas can present challenges for procedure that could potentially produce aerosols. As such, many of us will be looking for alternative ways to provide treatment that do not utilize handpieces and reduces the need for air spray and water spray in the mouth. We are providing the chart below to assist you in assessing the likelihood of producing aerosols that may increase the transmission risk for airborne pathogens, and plan for necessary PPE accordingly. This chart is by no means definitive because we all do things differently, however we hope that it will provide a framework and starting place as you plan for your reopening and the PPE you will need to sustain operations.

HS HP = High Speed Handpiece | SS HP = Slow Speed Handpiece
 HS EV = High Speed Evacuation | SS HP = Slow Speed Evacuation

Procedure	HS HP	SS HP	HS EV	SS EV	Air/ Water Spray	Recommended PPE See CDC guidelines for final word on required PPE
No Risk						None
Teledentistry	N	N	N	N	N	
Minimal Risk						Mask Type 1, Eye Protection
Initial patient examination	N	N	N	N	N	
Photos - extraoral	N	N	N	N	N	
Panoramic radiographs	N	N	N	N	N	
Cephalometric radiographs	N	N	N	N	N	
CBCT scan	N	N	N	N	N	
Moderate Risk						Mask Type 3, Eye Protection Clinical Coat, Full Face Shield
Photos - intraoral	N	N	N	N	N	
Intraoral scanning	N	N	N	N	N	
Periapical/bitewing radiographs	N	N	N	N	N	
Impressions - Alginate/PVS	N	N	N	N	N	
Impressions - Computer scanned	N	N	N	N	N	
Bonding Brackets -direct or indirect	N	?	Y	Y	Y	
Bonding Attachments -direct or indirect Placing retainers	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Adjusting retainers	N	N	N	N	N	
Delivering Aligners - no attachment changes	N	N	N	N	N	
Removing TADs	N	N	N	N	N	
Placing TADs	N	Y/N	N	N	Y	
Placing Class II Correctors	N	N	N	N	N	
Cementing fixed appliances (bands, crowns)	N	N	Y	Y	Y	
Increased Risk						Mask N95, Eye Protection Full Face Shield, Headcovering Moisture resistant gown
Rebond bracket(s)	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
Reposition bracket(s)	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
Removing and replacing attachments – aligners	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
Enameloplasty	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
Debonding bracket(s)	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
Removing laboratory-fabricated appliance	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
Removing cemented appliances	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
Composite buildup (lateral incisors, incisal edges, etc.)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Laser gingivoplasty (gingival reduction, uncovering cuspids, etc.)	N	N	Y	Y	Y	