

## Park Blvd Dentistry

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To all,

Many, many thanks to those of you who responded to the last newsletter (I know the rest of you are wishing us well). While each and every response has been warmly received, I will have to say Jim F.'s response was funny enough to share with you.

**Great Video! So... I should show up for my cleaning appointment on June 22? And in light of all this downtime, I assume you have had time to install the coffee bar, snack shop, and large-screen TV with ESPN.**

What makes this particularly funny is that we have been buying and re-arranging things during this downtime, but none so exciting as what he assumed!! Unfortunately, those items purchased and arranged in the office have been of the more boring variety. Masks, jackets, thermometers, face shields, gloves etc. have been on our shopping lists. In fact, just to give you a sneak preview of what we will look like do try not to laugh too much!



And yes, something about Darth Vader is the usual response to my sharing this picture. Who said dentistry is not fun??

As to the subject line, Covid-19 and Alphabet Soup, you might ask what these two have in common. The answer is in response to Maureen R.'s comment.

## **Would love to hear your thoughts on re-opening DuPage and the state.**

The Alphabet Soup of organizations who are guiding dentistry's response to Covid-19 are not all on the same page when discussing a firm re-opening date. For example and as of this moment, the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) have not given us a back to work date at all even though 22+ states have dental offices open for business. The ADA (American Dental Association) says IL is an essential state with no restrictions as long as we follow guidelines as of 5/1/2020. The ISDS (Illinois State Dental Society) and the IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health) both say we are good to go 5/11/2020. The IDHA (Illinois Dental Hygiene Association) says that ISDS and IDPH are saying 6/1/2020 which of course is in direct contradiction to what we as dentists were told.

And let's not forget of course that Governor Pritzker says we are to Stay at Home through 5/30/2020.

CDC, OSHA, ADA, ISDS, IDPH, IDHA and the State of IL.....whose guidance should we follow? It was easier to stomach Alphabet Soup when we were younger and sick than now!

So what to do? We do as we always do when faced with conflicting dates. We pick a middle date to a "soft" open and for us that is 5/18/2020. We will see a few patients who are in discomfort rather than pain (which has been our previous criteria). Starting 5/26/2020, we will proceed to a "soft/hard" open in which we will try a more complete schedule. With luck, we will have a "hard" open on 6/1/2020. That is of course assuming those of you out there are prepared to return.

The best answer to Maureen's comment is.....The reality is we must open to business and our lives to protect our financial future and preserve our mental health. We need the guidelines and the latitude to open businesses as our organizations see fit (if we can get them to agree). Upstate and downstate IL must be free to consider their own geographic limitations to this virus. We need the hugs. We need to travel again to see friends and family. We need the laughs.

Let's just hope they come from more than PBD and how we look. Be careful or we will zap you with our light saber!

More newsletters to follow that will detail what you need to do when ready to return. See you soon.

Sharon Szeszycki DDS

Susan, Kim, Cindy and Maddie

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