

Dear Patient,

As we come to terms with the growing challenges of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, our focus as always is to support you and provide our patients with the best orthodontic care. We appreciate the difficulties all of us are experiencing during these testing times.

In order to protect our staff and patients, we are of course following the guidelines as outlined by the Australia Dental Association (ADA) and the Australian Society of Orthodontists (ASO).

Currently Tony Weir Orthodontics is still fully functioning at both locations but, as the situation is unfolding at an ever increasing rate, further changes may need to be made.

We ask that you assist us with the following important actions:-

- Postponement of any non-urgent appointments, such as retainer checks
- Any patient who is ill or has ill close family members should defer their appointment
- Family and friends accompanying our patient need to be restricted in overall numbers. Please limit the numbers entering our room to the patient themselves and at most one other person.
- Non-essential personnel need to be restricted from our clinic areas. Ideally this means our patients only

We are grateful for the understanding shown by our patients in postponing non urgent appointments resulting in reduced strain on limited resources such as masks and gloves. In addition, rescheduling non-urgent appointments will aid in slowing the potential spread of the virus through our families and contacts, and help protect our staff and their families also.

We are, at present, still available to see patients for matters that are urgent. As always, standard infection control measures will be routinely carried out with further protocols implemented as they become recommended. We hope your staff, family and friends remain safe and well during this crisis.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have further information or enquiries.  
Ph 3278 1492  
reception@tonyweir.com.au

The Australian Society of Orthodontists released the following recommendations on Monday 23 March 2020. Tony Weir Orthodontics will adhere to the recommendations as closely as possible.

Based on the situation today, the ASO recommends the following (please note the situation is changing rapidly and we expect that information will change accordingly):

- Commencement of active orthodontic treatment (e.g. In fixed appliances) should be delayed unless that delay would compromise the outcome of treatment (e.g. most extraction cases where the extractions have already been done).
- New Patient consultations should be deferred or done by virtual technology if possible.
- Patients in active treatment need to be supervised to ensure routine treatment does not become urgent - regular adjustments for patients in treatment will be needed however all COVID-19 health and safety precautions need to be observed.
- Routine retainer checks and recalls (case by case) should be deferred or members use other measures such as phone calls, virtual consults.
- Members should do debands as per schedule with necessary COVID-19 health and safety precautions.
- Members should minimise higher risk activity e.g. aerosols / high speed
- The ASO endorses the ADA guidelines with respect to treatment in relation to patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19.
- Wherever possible, orthodontic treatment should not be provided to anyone confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19.
- Ensure compliance with social distancing in waiting rooms and surgery – see ASO website for further information and advice.

