

As professionals, your critical thinking skills and professional judgement, used in conjunction with the Dental Practice Guidelines During the COVID-19 Pandemic ([Joint Guidelines](#)) effective August 1, will allow you to make appropriate and informed decisions at this time.

- Pre-screening of Clients (Joint Guidelines, p 13 - 15) and Daily Staff Screening (Joint Guidelines, p 5).
- Point of Care Risk Assessment – Consider detailed health screening, co-morbidity assessment, availability of appropriate PPE, community risk, client age, etc., (Joint Guidelines, p 9). Review the flow chart from page 23 of the Joint Guidelines.
- Risk Hazard Assessment - Facility characteristics, specific practice settings, appropriate controls based on risk (Joint Guidelines, p 4, and the College's resource [COVID 19 Protecting Yourself and Preparing your Workplace](#) (website sign in required))
 - Consider additional risk mitigation tools like reducing/eliminating aerosols, four-handed dentistry, time between clients.
- Ensure use of appropriate PPE and review/remember proper donning and doffing ([cuffs or elastics](#), [thumb loops](#)).
- Highest risk of transmission among dental personnel is in the lunchroom. Review your office protocols to minimize this risk.

RDHs are required by the Alberta Government to follow these enhanced joint guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is essential to minimize the risk of transmission within your practice to avoid the possibility of further restrictions.

If you are concerned about a dental hygiene practitioner who is not following these [Joint Guidelines](#) and potentially putting public safety at risk, please contact the College Complaints Director at 780-465-1756 or email complaints@crdha.ca to discuss further.