

Notice

Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners

Guidelines, Re-Opening of Dental Practices, and Rumors of Reopening Dental Practices

The Board is aware of rumors stating that restrictions on the practice of dentistry will be rescinded. It is also rumored that dental offices will be able to treat all patients in the normal course. These changes are supposed to happen as soon as Monday, May 4, 2020. These rumors are **not true**.

Inquiries have also been received from dentists regarding procedures that must be followed once the catastrophic health emergency is declared over, or dentists are otherwise permitted to treat patients in the normal course. At the present time, pursuant to Health Secretary Robert R. Neall's March 23, 2020 and April 5, 2020 orders, dentists (and other Maryland health care providers) "shall perform only medical procedures that are critically necessary for the maintenance of health for a patient."

As you are also aware, numerous "guidelines" have been released by state and national organizations. These "guidelines" may or may not be appropriate when the Governor declares the emergency over. Unlike Secretary Neall's orders, "**Guidelines**" are not the law in **Maryland**.

Dentists who treat patients for dental procedures that are critically necessary must follow established CDC guidelines and must use **proper personal protective equipment**. That was the law before the pandemic, and it continues to be the law. In addition, dental providers should follow Department of Health and CDC recommendations regarding pre screening questions, temperature and symptom checks, and appropriate social distancing guidelines.

The Board continues to work with the Governor's office and the office of the Health Secretary to determine the proper procedures that must be in place when treatment restrictions are lifted, eased, or phased in.

In addition, please note that the actions of governors and legislatures in other states have no effect upon the law in Maryland.

Dentists and dental hygienists will be advised by the Board when restrictions have been rescinded, or otherwise altered.