



*California Dental Hygienists' Association
The Voice of Dental Hygiene*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 1, 2020

California Dental Hygienists' Association Urges Dental Offices to Adhere to Current State Mandates Restricting Dental Care to Emergencies Only

According to the current Governor's Mandate, it is highly advised that dental offices provide only emergency care. The Dental Health Division of the California Public Health Department, the California Dental Hygienists' Association, and the California Dental Association are working daily to develop protocols for safe Return To Work procedures for the dental team.

It is critical that dental offices provide safe effective treatment. Safe protocols must be developed, and sufficient personal protective equipment must be available before opening for any service beyond emergency care. Dental offices are high-aerosol environments. Patients and dental staff must not unnecessarily be put at risk.

In the absence of state guidelines for dental offices, depending on your personal situation, you could go to the following links to determine what protections are in place.

<https://www.labor.ca.gov/coronavirus2019/>

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/dentistry.html?fbclid=IwAR29GWOS3jra5iaPPdDLgqqRi9lls2V-0pNnalbg4Mgbud3zo-R2-E6ojrM>

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/GuidanceforDentistry.aspx>

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/ResumingCalifornia%20%99sDeferredandPreventiveHealthCare.aspx>

<http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/statement-COVID.html>

Furthermore, CDHA contacted California State Dental Director Dr. Jay Kumar, D.D.S., M.P.H., regarding these concerns. Below is his response:

"We are working on updating the current guidance following the release of the State of California Guidance, Resuming California's Deferred and Preventive Health Care. Until such time, the current dental guidance should be followed.

All employers and dental offices are required to follow CDC recommendations and OSHA standards."



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