

# West Virginia Dental COVID-19 Task Force

## WV Dental Board Recommendations

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic the WV Dental COVID-19 Task Force recommended that all offices familiarize themselves with the ADA “Return to Work Toolkit”. This toolkit, along with more stringent PPE requirements, provided necessary and important information in implementing best practices to help navigate our way through the pandemic. Using this new armamentarium has allowed the dental profession to have the lowest incidence of COVID-19 in healthcare related fields (<2%).

In light of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated May 13, 2021 guidelines and in anticipation of the lifting of the mask mandate for West Virginia, the WV Dental COVID-19 Task force was asked to provide recommendations going forward.

Following current guidance from the CDC, ADA, ADHA and AGD regarding best practices **in a healthcare setting** the Task Force **RECOMMENDS** adhering to current protocol as the new standard. This protocol includes:

- Masks worn at all times while in the facility (this includes non-operatory personnel and patients)
- Temperature check upon arrival
- Pre-screening for cold/flu/COVID symptoms
- Social Distancing in waiting rooms
- Adherence to new PPE requirements during aerosol generating procedures

As always, offices should use their professional judgment in deciding the best way to continue implementing these protocols.