

West Virginia Dental COVID-19 Task Force

WV Dental Board Guidance

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic the West Virginia Dental COVID-19 Task force was created to develop a series of recommendations to help ensure the safety of patients, dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants and staff. As new information arises from state, federal, and agency sources we will do our best to update these recommendations in a timely manner. Dentists should always keep informed of and follow guidance from CDC or OSHA related to dental practice in relation to this pandemic.

Recently the American Dental Association released its “Return to Work Toolkit”. This document provides a well-organized and thoughtful approach to dental care amid the COVID-19 pandemic. All offices are encouraged to thoroughly review this document and integrate these “tools” into their daily practice. [ADA Return to Work Interim Tool Kit](#)

Prior to returning to operation dental health care personnel **MUST** complete in-office, hands-on training to address changes to office protocol. This training must minimally include pre-appointment screening process, in-office patient registration procedures, reception area preparation strategies, chairside checklist and staff protection strategies. A COVID-19 Back to Work Informed Consent document signed by all office personnel **MUST** be signed and kept with your infection control records prior to beginning patient care. An example of this document is provided below.

In addition to the “Toolkit” the task force is requiring necessary PPE as follows:

- Operatory Personnel for Aerosol producing procedures
 - o N95/Equivalent or Level 3 Surgical Mask [ADA mask and face shield guidelines](#)
 - o Eye Protection with side shields and/or Face shield
 - o Gowns – disposable or reusable gowns laundered on-site or by a professional service

[CDC Facial Hair Information](#)

[CDC Donning/Doffing PPE PDF](#)

[CDC Donning/Doffing PPE Video](#)

For information on potential COVID-19 exposures please follow guidelines as published on the DHHR website. [DHHR Exposure Guidelines](#)

We understand issues surrounding the availability of PPE. The Task Force, WVDA, and WVU School of Dentistry are working in conjunction with the Governor’s office and supply chains to procure the necessary PPE should you have any difficulty. Offices must use professional judgment in deciding if they possess adequate quantities of PPE to properly care for patients and protect staff prior to opening.

Lastly, we understand this is a difficult time for all dental health care personnel. No members of the dental staff should be made to work against their will if they do not feel the environment to be safe. All dental health care personnel are encouraged to file a complaint with the West Virginia Dental Board if they suspect their work environment to be unsafe for themselves, other employees, or patients. To file a complaint go to wvdentalboard.org, print the complaint form and email it to the board office at wvbde@suddenlinkmail.com. The Board will do its best to respond as quickly as possible.

In conclusion, this is an evolving situation and it could change depending on disease incidence at the discretion of the Governor.

Useful links:

[ADA Return to Work Interim Tool Kit](#)

DHHR: <https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/Provider-Resources.aspx>

WV Dental Association: <https://www.wvdental.org/>

WV Dental Hygienist's Association: <https://www.mywvdha.org/>

WV Dental Board: <http://www.wvdentalboard.org/>

WVU School of Dentistry: <https://dentistry.hsc.wvu.edu/>

OSHA: <https://www.osha.gov/>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/>

OSAP: <https://www.osap.org/>

Department of Labor, Families First Coronavirus Response Act: [DOL FFCRA Employee Rights](#)
[DOL FFCRA Poster](#)

COVID-19 Back to Work Informed Consent

Team Member _____

I understand that COVID-19 has a long incubation period and carriers may not show signs or symptoms and still be contagious. _____ (initial)

I understand that dental procedures create an aerosol which is one way that COVID-19 can be spread. _____(initial)

I understand that due to the characteristics of dental procedures there is an inherent risk of potential contraction of COVID-19 simply by being present in a dental office. _____(initial)

I have actively taken part in in-office training per published guidelines released by the WV Dental Board in consultation with the WV Dental COVID-19 Task Force. _____(initial)

_____(sign/date)

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMED CONSENT

Dental Treatment in the Era of COVID-19

Thank you for your continued trust in our practice. As with the transmission of any communicable disease like a cold or the flu, you may be exposed to COVID-19, also known as “Coronavirus,” at any time or in any place. Be assured that we have always followed state and federal regulations and recommended universal personal protection and disinfection protocols to limit transmission of all diseases in our office and continue to do so.

Despite our careful attention to sterilization, disinfection, and use of personal barriers, there is still a chance that you could be exposed to an illness in our office, just as you might be at your gym, grocery store, or favorite restaurant. “Social Distancing” nationwide has reduced the transmission of the Coronavirus. Although we have taken measures to provide social distancing in our practice, due to the nature of the procedures we provide, it is not possible to maintain social distancing between the patient, dental health care providers, staff and sometimes other patients at all times.

Although exposure is unlikely, do you accept the risk and consent to treatment?

Yes _____ No _____

Patient/Parent’s Signature Date

WV COVID-19 Task Force Members

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