

## Closure of Dental Offices

The NC State Board of Dental Examiners has received numerous requests for the Board to mandate the closure of all NC dental offices in response to the coronavirus pandemic. **However, the Dental Board lacks the authority to mandate the closure of dental offices.** Notwithstanding certain federal authority, the authority to close North Carolina businesses resides with the Governor, certain state agencies, and county and local governments under the emergency powers of the state. Should the Board learn of the Governor or another state agency mandating the closure of dental offices, that information will be published to you as soon as possible.

In the meantime, dentists, who strictly adhere to all sterilization and disinfection guidelines, should consider the continuation of emergency care to prevent dental patients from adding stress to hospitals, hospital emergency rooms, and urgent care facilities. Likewise, re-scheduling or postponing non-urgent, routine, and elective procedures is advised to lessen the risk of an inadvertent spread of the virus.