

The North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners

Statement on

COVID-19

16 March 2020

The NC Dental Board continues to monitor the spread of the coronavirus in our state. Governor Cooper's two Executive Orders have, among other things, declared a state of emergency, closed public schools and banned gatherings of large crowds (more than 100 people) in certain situations.

<https://governor.nc.gov/news/executive-orders>

All citizens, especially health care providers, have a role to play in preventing the spread of this disease by following sound scientific health care advice and infection control principles. Dentists in particular are responsible for ensuring the safety of their patients and their dental team. The Board recognizes that circumstances vary widely within our state and no two dental practices are alike. You as a dentist have the best information regarding your patients, your auxiliary personnel, and the community you serve. During this pandemic you should become thoroughly familiar with and implement all additional patient safety and infection control measures issued by federal, state, and professional agencies that are appropriate for your practice. With this in mind, the NC State Board of Dental Examiners **strongly recommends** that dentists put in place the best possible infection control and sterilization protocols for both operatories and common waiting areas. In addition, dentists should consider postponing elective or non-urgent care for two weeks beginning 17 March 2020. Please note, this is a recommendation and not a mandate. However, these measures are designed to limit the spread of Covid-19 and keep practitioners and patients as safe as possible.

Below are links to various resources that provide advice and guidance to healthcare professionals and the general public that should prove useful as you seek to provide the best possible protection for your patients and your dental team.

Thank you for all that you do to serve your patients and support dentistry in our state.

CDC Developing Guidelines for Dentists:

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

Guidance for Providers:

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina/health-care>

Latest Covid-19 update:

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina>

Basic Information on the virus:

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina/what-covid-19>

Materials for Sharing:

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina/materials-and>

FAQ's from the ADA:

<https://www.ada.org/en/publications/ada-news/2020-archive/march/ada-adds-frequently-asked-questions-from-dentists-to-coronavirus-resources>