TO: Dentists and Public Health

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RE: Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Nebraska Dental Health Community

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The DHHS Office of Oral Health and Dentistry is closely monitoring the current COVID-19 situation in Nebraska and communicating directly with DHHS Officials, the Nebraska Dental Association, the U.S. Public Health Service and the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors. We are also in contact with the Nebraska Dental Schools, Community Health Centers and Local Public Health Departments.

**The American Dental Association (ADA)** released a bulletin on 16 March 2020 [ADA News](https://www.ada.org/virus) stating “the ADA recommends dentists nationwide postpone elective procedures for the next three weeks and concentrate on emergency dental care to alleviate the burden on hospital emergency departments. It is up to dentists to make well-informed decisions about their patients and practices.” Please find updates and further information from the ADA at [ADA.org/virus](https://www.ada.org/virus).


**The Chief Dental Officer for the U.S. Public Health Service**, Rear Admiral Tim Ricks DMD, MPH recommends following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance on their website ([COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)). The CDC is currently developing guidelines for COVID-19 in Dental Settings that should be released soon and available here: [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html).


Dentists and hygienists are a vital part of the healthcare community and have an obligation to protect the safety of patients and staff during this outbreak. Adhering to current and future national and state recommendations will reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the dental setting and help maintain the oral health of Nebraska’s citizens. This is a rapidly changing situation and the information continues to evolve. We thank you for your understanding, patience, and cooperation during these unprecedented times.