



Nebraska Dental  
ASSOCIATION

ADA®

March 16, 2020

## COVID-19

The Nebraska Dental Association (NDA) Board of Trustees has been closely monitoring the spread of the coronavirus; as dentists we are in one of the highest risk categories for transmission and contraction of the Coronavirus, with many routine dental procedures having the potential to transmit the virus via aerosolization of fluids. As leaders in the healthcare profession, we are responsible for ensuring the safety of our citizens and for our dental teams. For this reason, the NDA Board of Trustees had an emergency meeting today, including consulting Dr. Charles Craft, State Dental Director, where we took a **unanimous vote on March 16th to recommend that dental offices in Nebraska postpone any non-emergent care starting 3/17/2020 and ending 4/1/2020. Dentists need to list an emergency phone number for patients to contact in an emergent situation. The Board will revisit this recommendation on March 26th.**

As always, it is expected that dentists will continue to be available as needed for emergency care and services.

The NDA does not make this request lightly, and it is being done out of an abundance of caution during this historic public health emergency. As health care professionals, we all have a role to play in "flattening the curve" in order to follow sound, scientific public health advice to help limit infections and slow the spread of the virus.

Our collective actions now will determine the spread of COVID-19, and this recommendation is being made after careful deliberation and in consultation with state and national public health experts. We believe by taking these extraordinary precautions, dentists can make a difference in helping to preserve the limited supply of personal protective equipment critical for emergency dental care and frontline health care personnel responding to the pandemic. We recognize the gravity of these extreme measures and are sensitive to the economic impact of such actions. Rest assured that the NDA will advocate on behalf of all dentists in Nebraska for economic relief packages.