



Stay at Home 2.0

DENTAL/HEALTHCARE

COVID-19 REOPENING GUIDANCE

GOVERNOR'S ECONOMIC REOPENING TASKFORCE



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Safeguarding Guidance:

In addition to CDC [guidelines for dental settings](#), the State of New Hampshire recommends dental practices establish measures to protect patients and employees. This is particularly difficult due to the known production of aerosols in dental procedures, and the prevalence of COVID-19 in asymptomatic individuals in NH. The State of New Hampshire also recognizes the public health burden of untreated dental pathology and the growth of this burden while practices have been closed.

Employee Protection:

1. Staff shall wear face protection and other personal protection items as recommended by the ADA, CDC and OSHA.
2. Staff shall be provided training on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) based on CDC [guidelines for using PPE](#).
3. The employer shall provide regular updates and training for employees about personal COVID-19 mitigation and practice safeguards based on ADA, CDC and OSHA guidelines.
4. All employees must report any illness to their appropriate supervisor and notify their supervisor of any close contact to a person with COVID-19 in the preceding 14 days.
5. Staff should be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 before each shift.
6. Dental personnel [known who are at higher-risk for severe illness](#) from COVID-19 should carefully evaluate whether their participation in clinical activities is appropriate at this time. This includes older adults (especially people 65 years of age and older) and those with serious underlying medical conditions.

Consumer Protection:

1. If ADA, CDC or OSHA approved PPE is not available to safely treat patients, patients will be referred to providers who have that equipment.
2. Pre-appointment screening evaluations shall be required for all patients and include medical history for all patients.
3. Patients will be pre-screened for symptoms of COVID-19 and with an in-office temperature check prior to treatment. Patients with an elevated temperature or symptoms of COVID-19 should be instructed to contact their primary care provider and re-scheduled for their dental procedure.
4. Patients should be asked to wear cloth face masks/coverings when entering dental offices and continue to wear them before and after dental care.



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Business Process Adaptations:

1. Dental providers shall continue to postpone elective treatment, surgeries and non-urgent dental visits until the practice is able to provide the recommended PPE to protect staff and safely treat patients.
2. Pre-scheduled appointments are required to ensure time for proper cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization between patients. Phases of care shall be as follows:
 - a. Dentists may currently perform emergency/urgent care procedures according to ADA guidelines.
 - b. Dentists may add elective/non-emergent and orthodontic procedures for patients when practices are able to fully comply with ADA interim guidance (titled “ADA Interim Guidance for Minimizing Risk of COVID-19 Transmission”) and align with [OSHA](#) guidance on PPE while there is ongoing community transmission of COVID-19. Treatment of high-risk patients is to be performed at the doctors’ discretion in alignment with ADA guidelines.
 - c. At this time, the State of New Hampshire does not recommend the resumption of elective cosmetic procedures or the use of ultrasonic scaling.
 - d. All guidance will be re-evaluated on an on-going basis to help ensure dental offices are maintaining best available practices to minimize COVID-19 exposure for patients and staff.

