

# Resources for Patients and Providers during the COVID-19 Pandemic

The following resource list was developed in response to the questions from the webinar “Pandemics and Practice: Ethical Challenges.” Information is drawn from the following sources: **ADA, CDC, FDA, NIH, OSHA** and peer-reviewed literature. For additional guidance, please be sure to contact your local and state societies.

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

## Patient Management

**Algorithm 1: Interim Guidance for Triage Patients for Emergency and Urgent Dental Care**

**Algorithm 2: Interim Guidance for Screening to Identify COVID-19 Infection for Emergency and Urgent Dental Patients**

**Algorithm 3: Interim Guidance to Minimize Risk of COVID-19 Transmission for Emergency and Urgent Dental Patients and HCP**

The **ADA Interim Guidance for Minimizing Risk of COVID-19 Transmission** covers dentist and dental team preparation; screening for COVID-19 status and triaging for dental treatment; instructions for patient arrival; infection control standards and COVID-19 transmission precautions, including personal protective equipment; clinical technique recommendations; steps to follow after suspected, unintentional exposure; environment disinfection between patients; post-operative instructions for patients; and steps to minimize exposure to others when going home after a workday.

<https://success.ada.org/en/practice-management/patients/digital-events/covid-19-transmission-and-emergency-care-q-and-a>

If a patient has reached out for urgent or emergency care, triage the patient over the telephone as you normally would. However, implement the additional **COVID-19 patient screening questions** to assess whether the patient should be seen in your practice or referred to their medical provider for potential COVID-19 testing or treatment.

## Provision of Emergency Care to Patients without COVID-19 in a Dental Clinic during the COVID-19 Pandemic

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/dental-settings.html>

If a patient must be seen in the dental clinic for emergency care, systematically assess the patient at the time of check-in. The patient should be asked about the presence of symptoms of a respiratory infection and history of travel to areas experiencing transmission of COVID-19 or contact with possible patients with COVID-19. If the patient is afebrile (temperature < 100.4°F) and otherwise without symptoms consistent with COVID-19, then emergency dental care may be provided using appropriate engineering controls, work practices, and infection control practices.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html#table1>



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## PPE and Guidelines

[Guidance on preparing workplaces for COVID-19. US Department of Labor. Occupational Safety and Health Administration. 2020. \(Pages 22-25\)](#)

## N95 Respirators

An N95 respirator is a respiratory protective device designed to achieve a very close facial fit and very efficient filtration of airborne particles. The 'N95' designation means that when subjected to careful testing, the respirator blocks at least 95 percent of very small (0.3 micron) test particles. If properly fitted, the filtration capabilities of N95 respirators exceed those of face masks. However, even a properly fitted N95 respirator does not completely eliminate the risk of illness or death.

<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/personal-protective-equipment-infection-control/n95-respirators-and-surgical-masks-face-masks>

## Aerosolization of virions

<https://www.perioimplantadvisory.com/periodontics/oral-medicine-anesthetics-and-oral-systemic-connection/article/14173521/covid19-and-the-problem-with-dental-aerosols>

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## Teledentistry

[https://www.ada.org/~media/ADA/Publications/Files/CDT\\_D9995D9996-GuideTo\\_v1\\_2017Jul17.pdf?la=en](https://www.ada.org/~media/ADA/Publications/Files/CDT_D9995D9996-GuideTo_v1_2017Jul17.pdf?la=en)

Teledentistry provides the means for a patient to receive services when the patient is in one physical location and the dentist or other oral health or general health care practitioner overseeing the delivery of those services is in another location. This mode of patient care makes use of telecommunication technologies to convey health information and facilitate the delivery of dental services without the physical constraints of a brick and mortar dental office. Teledentistry, according to the ADA's Comprehensive Policy Statement on Teledentistry, refers to the use of telehealth systems and methodologies in dentistry.

## Billing and Coding ADA Interim Guidance

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## Additional Resources

- [CDC Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Dental Settings During the COVID-19 Response](#)
- [CDC Recommendation: Postpone Non-Urgent Dental Procedures, Surgeries, and Visits](#)
- [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Healthcare Settings](#)
- [Checklist for Healthcare Facilities: Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators during the COVID-19 Response](#)
- [COVID-19 Information for Healthcare Professionals](#)
- [ADA Coronavirus Center for Dentists](#)
- [ADA: What Constitutes a Dental Emergency? \(PDF\)](#)
- [CDA: COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) Updates](#)
- [Coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-2019\) situation report—32. World Health Organization. February 21, 2020.](#)
- Zhu N, Zhang D, Wang W, et al. A novel coronavirus from patients with pneumonia in China, 2019. *N Engl J Med.* 2020; 382(8):727-733. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa2001017
- [Ethics Resources from the Hastings Center on the Coronavirus](#)
- [Bioethics Toolkit for Covid-19](#)
- [Novel Coronavirus Resources](#)

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## Learn More

[The Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct](#)

[ADA CE Online: Find ADA CE Online Courses](#)

Additional ethics courses are offered to the profession at no cost by the American College of Dentists and be accessed at: [www.dentaethics.org](http://www.dentaethics.org)