



Connecticut State Dental Association

Message from the President

March 16, 2020

Dear valued member,

The situation around the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is rapidly evolving and the number of cases in Connecticut is growing daily. Governor Ned Lamont declared a state of emergency on March 12, 2020, and subsequently has taken many steps to limit the transmission of the disease in our state.

Like all of you, the Connecticut State Dental Association (CSDA) Board of Governors has been closely monitoring the spread of the coronavirus. As of the writing of this notice on Monday, March 16, 2020 there are no mandatory restrictions specific to dentistry in Connecticut.

That said, the Board of Governors recognizes that many routine dental procedures have the potential to transmit the virus via aerosolization of fluids. As a trusted healthcare profession, we are responsible for ensuring the safety of our citizens and for our dental teams. We all have a role to play in slowing the spread of the coronavirus and “flattening the curve,” by following sound scientific and public health advice, in order to help limit infections and slow the spread of the virus.

For this reason, the CSDA Board of Governors convened an emergency conference call this afternoon, and approved the following resolution:

The CSDA Board of Governors recommends that Connecticut dentists consider postponing elective and routine care for two weeks starting March 18, 2020.

At this point, this is a *recommendation* from the CSDA, not a mandate. It is up to individual practices to determine whether to continue appointments beyond those that are emergencies or are medically necessary, based on your discretion. Practices are encouraged to exceed standard infection control procedures and implement policies to minimize patients' time and possible contact in the waiting room.

We expect that these two weeks will give the CDC and ADA time to establish additional safety measures above and beyond our already comprehensive universal standards of infection control. In addition, we anticipate that pausing routine care will allow time to update very specific guidelines as they relate to social distancing, procedural modifications to control aerosolization, and others.

The CSDA leadership took this very difficult decision seriously, and came to our decision out of an abundance of caution. We expect the number of COVID-19 positive cases will grow in the coming weeks, and taking responsible action right now is the best thing we can do at this time for our patients, for our office teams and for our health care system.

We also recognize that as small business owners, we have families and employees who rely on us. We want to minimize the long-term impact on our offices as this virus ripples through the country. The ADA continues to advocate for relief for dental offices at the federal level, and we will continue to do the same for our members in Hartford.

We thank you for your commitment to providing the highest level of care to Connecticut's patients, and to the dental profession. As we learn more, our recommendations could change as new information is brought forward. The CSDA will continue to share updates and communications with our members. Please continue to monitor our website, CSDA.com, ADA.org and CDC.gov, as well as our social media platforms on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CSDA), [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/CSDA), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/CSDA) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/CSDA).

Very truly yours,

Albert Natelli, DDS

Connecticut State Dental Association, President