



Connecticut State Dental Association

Message from the President

April 29 2020

The Connecticut State Dental Association (CSDA) strongly recommends that dentists in Connecticut cancel elective and routine care, and only treat urgent/emergent dental issues through May 20, 2020, in support of the Governor's "Stay Safe, Stay Home" distancing and safety guidelines.

Although we are still several weeks out from May 20, dentists are beginning to make plans to reopen their practices for elective care. On April 27, the American Dental Association (ADA) released their "[Return to Work Interim Guidance Toolkit](#)," which includes a variety of tools and suggested protocols to assist the short-term practice management as dentists return to work. As these are interim guidelines, they will be revised as necessary and members will be notified of additional information going forward.

The CSDA recognizes that there is no state mandate that requires dental offices to limit their practices to urgent/emergent dental care. However, dentists do need to practice ethically by using sound clinical judgement, utilizing appropriate PPE as defined by the CDC, and providing a safe environment for their staff and patients.

In conjunction with the ADA's toolkit, we are providing some [additional information and Connecticut specific FAQs](#) (password protected) that you should take into consideration when reopening your dental practice.

Information about PPEs

Obtaining N95, KN95 and level 3 surgical masks and other PPE is difficult not just in Connecticut, but around the country. The ADA is working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure that dentists are able to acquire necessary PPE from supplies being provided at the State level. Similar discussions are taking place in the New England region. In addition, the CSDA has sent communications to the Governor's Office, the State Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, and the Department of Public Health requesting PPE assistance for dentists. We will continue to actively pursue all avenues, and will alert members when information is available. For more resources regarding PPE, please go to the CSDA [Coronavirus website](#).

Tips To Create A COVID-19 Strategic Recovery Plan

In an article in the American Dental Association's [Dental Practice Success Spring 2020 issue](#), Roger P. Levin, DDS, CEO and founder of Levin Group, states that "in the face of the challenges posed by our current situation with COVID-19 we must approach strategic planning in a new way." Dr. Levin explains that strategic planning at this time must be "simple" and "focused on only four key areas that are critical to survival and recovery": practice, staff, patients, and financial. Dr. Levin shares tips to create a one-page recovery plan that lists value-based strategies and measurable goals for the four areas. "Once the correct strategies are identified and you stay 100% focused on achieving your goals, your odds of recovering more quickly increase tremendously," Dr. Levin writes.