



Connecticut State Dental Association

Message from the President

May 14, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

In recent days, our profession had become the center of attention in our state. Many of you have reached out to me and staff for guidance, suggestions, but most important of all, your support. For that, it speaks volumes to the strength and dedication of our colleagues. I am looking forward to better days ahead as we continue to move forward in unison.

Just yesterday (Wednesday), our President-Elect, Dr. Mimi Delessio-Matta and I represented CSDA along with the CSDA Government Relations Director Kristina Diamond, on the Reopen CT Subgroup of Dental Professionals to further strategize the return of dental hygiene and other elective care in CT dental practices. We spent valuable time working with our CT Dental Hygiene colleague leaders along with DPH representatives, and Dr. Peter Katz, the Chair of the Connecticut State Dental Commission to assess the re-entry to perform dental elective procedures. In the end, we arrived with additional guidance that included the ADA Interim Guidance Toolkit, CDC and OSHA guidelines. We will keep you posted as we hear from our state's officials once they finalize their recommendations.

Immediately after the meeting of the Reopen CT Dental Subgroup, the CSDA Board met. The agenda items ranged from the survey of the PPE needs of our members to how we can better communicate with you all. I also reported the recent collaboration of CSDA and ADHA-CT to create a guidance that could ease the challenges that exist during our re-entry effort. As important as having our dental hygienist colleagues working with us in the return to elective procedure effort, your Board also supported the creation of the COVID-19 Guidance Task Force. First and foremost, the Task Force will be strategizing on ways to procure PPE for our colleagues and their team members.

Throughout this crisis and especially these last few days, there were moments that I reflected of how we would get through these times. Yesterday, while getting into my car, I saw a bird sitting on a branch, which made me think of this proverb:

“A bird sitting on a tree is never afraid of the branch breaking, because
its trust is not in the branch, but in its own wings.” – Anon

As we continue to weather this storm, I have full confidence that this board and our members will be the *wings* that lift us through this storm.

I am grateful for your patience and support,

Tam Le, DMD
CSDA President