



# Connecticut State Dental Association

## Message from the President

May 20, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I send this email to you as our state begins the first phase of reopening for many Connecticut businesses.

The last 9 weeks, I have been preparing to ease back into providing essential care in the safest way possible. After hearing from many of you, I recognize that many dental offices have been planning an individualized reentry to practice, as well. We have been fortunate to have the resources of the American Dental Association and their "[Return to Work Interim Guidance Toolkit](#)" to provide structure and new protocols needed to protect the health and safety of our dental team and our patients.

Using the ADA's Toolkit as a starting point, the Reopen CT Task Force - and later the Reopen CT Dental Subgroup - developed additional guidance for dental practices in Connecticut to slowly expand operations in as safe a manner as possible. I hope by now that you have taken the time to download, fully review, and discuss with your team the "[Best Practices for Dental Offices Considering Expanding Operations Beyond Emergency Care](#)" released on Monday, May 18. **This document lays out the minimum baseline of precautions needed for dental practices to protect their employees, their patients, and the overall public health in Connecticut.** To be clear, you should *only* consider expanding your practice to include non-urgent procedures *when the controls outlined in the guidance are in place*, not before.

Last evening, I personally received correspondence noting that the Governor's tolerance for non-compliance is very low, and everyone's ability to continue operating is at risk if the "Best Practices for Dental Offices" is not taken seriously. We do not want to find ourselves in the same situation as other small businesses and industries, which were given the green light to reopen only to find themselves closed again due to questions about safety. I urge you to please demonstrate great care and professional judgement as you move forward.

Be well,

Tam Le, DMD  
CSDA President