



Connecticut State Dental Association

Message from the President

May 22, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I have great news to share with you! After countless hours of vetting numerous sources and vendors, yesterday afternoon the CSDA Covid-19 Guidance Task Force recommended that the CSDA purchase 50,000 NIOSH-certified N95s respirators for sale to our actively practicing members. After reviewing the report from the Task Force, the CSDA board unanimously approved this one time bulk purchase, as a benefit to our members who are struggling with the restricted supply chain of N95 masks. The shipment is scheduled to arrive at the CSDA Central Office by mid-week next week.

The Task Force and CSDA staff will continue to work out the distribution details in the upcoming days, but the intent is to provide actively practicing CSDA members (Active and Life Active members) the exclusive opportunity to purchase respirators during the first week of availability. Members will be able to purchase up to 5 boxes of 10 respirators each for approximately \$60 plus tax per box through the CSDA website. Information on placing orders and a link to purchase respirators will be sent to Active and Life active members after the Memorial Day holiday, so please watch your emails! Distribution of the respirators will be coordinated through districts/component societies to avoid having hundreds of dentists descend upon the Central Office. Board members and component society volunteers will arrange distribution to their members more locally.

After taking office a little more than two weeks ago in the midst of the pandemic, my immediate goal was to develop an interim strategic plan for our association. That plan includes: 1) Identifying and prioritizing our members' needs, 2) Ensuring better and more frequent communication with our members, 3) enhancing support to our members by collaboration with our stakeholders and lastly, 4) continuing to maintain our core commitment to serve CSDA members' needs outside of the current crisis. In my upcoming communications, I will further highlight how our staff and board are implementing these goals set by the interim strategic plan.

As we all are aware, throughout this crisis reputable and authentic certified PPE products are almost impossible to find. As difficult as the task has been, meeting our members' needs has been our only mission. However, we are committed to continue to address other immediate needs that are still in front of us.

I would like to thank the Task Force members, staff and Board of Governors for their dedication and commitment to serving our members during these extraordinary times. Most of all, I want to thank you for your patience and willingness to maintain the highest standard of professionalism and commitment to our profession during these challenging times.

With gratitude,

Tam Le, DMD
CSDA President