



Connecticut State Dental Association

Special E-Communicator

May 8, 2020

Today, Governor Lamont mentioned during his press conference that dentists may return to providing elective dental procedures if they have the PPE and are following the ADA's "Return to Work Interim Guidance Toolkit." We issued the following press release after the press conference.

CONNECTICUT STATE DENTAL ASSOCIATION PROVIDES GUIDANCE ON RESUMING ELECTIVE DENTAL PROCEDURES

SOUTHINGTON, Conn. (May 8, 2020) - The [Connecticut State Dental Association](#) (CSDA), a statewide professional membership organization, applauds those members who contributed to flattening the curve by limiting their practices to urgent and emergent dental care over the past several weeks. The health and safety of patients is the top priority of our industry.

During Governor Lamont's press conference on Friday afternoon, it was stated that dental offices, may begin providing elective dental procedures when they are comfortable, provided they have appropriate PPE, are following the American Dental Association's "[Return to Work Interim Guidance Toolkit](#)," and have prepared their staff by having conversations about the new strategies that will be put into place.

"Oral health is important to overall health, and dental offices must prepare themselves and their teams to ensure the health and safety of everyone who works in or visits a dental office," said Dr. Tam Le, CSDA President. Among the key components of the ADA Toolkit:

- **Infection Control Protocols.** Dental offices already have strong infection prevention protocols in place, based on the best-available scientific evidence. Dental offices will continue these infection control standards and incorporate new CDC, OSHA and ADA recommendations.
- **Use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment.** Dental offices must have the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), masks and gowns, prior to resuming elective procedures.
- **Open Communications with the Entire Dental Team.** Prior to dental offices seeing patients for elective procedures dentists should lead their team in conversations about their concerns, discuss the new strategies to be implemented, and the reasons behind them. Team members must feel comfortable that precautions are being taken in the dental office.

"Dentists who have the appropriate screening, social distancing, PPE and infection control protocols in place should use their best judgement in resuming elective dental procedures," explained Dr. Le. The CSDA encourages dentists and dental offices to make sure they are well prepared and following all the ADA, CDC and OSHA guidelines before opening their doors to all elective dental procedures.