August 12, 2020

On Tuesday August 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) released a statement recommending that “routine” dental care should be delayed in certain situations, due to COVID-19. We have received communications from several CSDA member dentists voicing their concerns about the comments made by the WHO.

In response, the American Dental Association expressed its strong disagreement with the WHO’s recommendation, noting that “dentistry is essential health care, because of its role in evaluating, diagnosing, preventing, or treating oral diseases, which can affect systemic health.” In addition, both the ADA and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have provided recommendations for minimizing the generation of aerosols, as well as guidelines for appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to be utilized to protect the dental team from COVID transmission. You can read the ADA’s full statement here.

In Connecticut, dentists are reminded to follow the most recent guidance issued by the CDC, and to use information from the American Dental Association and the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to complement or supplement the CDC guidance.