



COVID-19
March 14, 2020

Dear Organizational Members,

The CDAA understands and acknowledges the impact that the COVID-19 outbreak may have on all oral health professionals. The protection of the public and the protection of the dental assisting workforce are of paramount concern to the CDAA. We acknowledge that this is a rapidly evolving situation as we work to process updated information while ensuring that we protect our patients and ourselves, according to emerging guidance from government and regulatory organizations.

CDAA will continue to vigilantly monitor the situation and provide resources and guidance to address the needs of our Organizational Members as they respond to the needs of their own members.

We understand that across the profession, dental assistants are concerned about their levels of risk and exposure, health and safety, and potential loss of income. Attached you will find an info-graphic prepared by the Canadian Dental Hygienist Association (CDHA). The CDAA endorses this information and believes it will help dental assistants to mitigate the risk.

Both the CDHA and the CDAA recommend that all clients be screened prior to their arrival and again when they arrive for their appointment, according to the following **client screening procedure**:

1. Ask clients if they have travelled or been in contact with someone who has travelled outside Canada in the last 21 days. Reschedule the appointment as required.
2. Remind clients that if they have flu-like symptoms, such as fever, cough or difficulty breathing, they should cancel/reschedule their appointment. Encourage them to see a medical professional.
3. Ensure hand sanitizer is available at the front desk and encourage its use by all clients upon arrival.

Over the coming days, CDAA will provide you with additional information and guidance. We encourage all dental assistants to continue to engage with both their employers and clients, as all members of the oral health team work together to ensure recommended safety protocols are understood and followed, while ensuring flexibility as this situation evolves.

Should your members need to access resources related to employment insurance, we would encourage you to share with them the following link:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/ei-regular-benefit.html>

Should your members need to access resources to address the concerns of their patients, we would encourage you to share with them the Canadian Dental Association's frequently asked questions document available at:

https://www.cda-adc.ca/en/oral_health/faqs/covid-19.asp

For up-to-date information on the Public Health Agency of Canada's response to COVID-19 please visit:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

We would also ask that you encourage your members to regularly verify provincial government health department websites for directives and guidelines related to the response to COVID-19.