



## **COVID-19 Update for CDHA members**

### **March 15, 2020**

Dear member

CDHA continues to monitor emerging information in the development of guidance and information resources for dental hygienists affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.

In response to questions posed to our most recent communication yesterday (March 14), CDHA recommends the following:

- The number of COVID-19 cases in Canada is currently low.
- Implementing strict pre-screening protocols is paramount to mitigate the risk of inadvertently treating a client with COVID-19. A client who has travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days should not be treated whether they have symptoms or not. Similarly, any client who presents with fever, coughing, runny nose, sore throat or other flu-like symptoms should be rescheduled.
- Community risk is an important factor in determining whether a dental hygienist continues to provide treatment and what that treatment should include. Self-assess your community risk or if unsure, contact your community public health organization.
- In communities where COVID-19 is present, reduce the risk of community transmission by reducing aerosols:
  - Discontinue ultrasonic scaling and polishing.
  - Have conversations with other members of the dental team to ensure that other procedures, especially those that require the use of handpieces, are limited.
- If your office has not provided appropriate levels of personal protective equipment (see CDHA's [Recommendation for Dental](#)

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[Hygienists During COVID-19 Outbreak](#)) or if clients have not been appropriately screened, do not provide client treatment.

For more information on the research around aerosols containing the COVID-19 virus, go to:

- [New coronavirus may spread as an airborne aerosol, like SARS](#)
- [Aerosol and surface stability of HCoV-19 \(SARS-CoV-1 2\) compared to SARS-CoV-1](#) (download PDF)
- [Transmission routes of 2019-nCoV and controls in dental practice](#)

Just a reminder **that CDHA is communicating with Finance Canada to request EI assistance for dental hygienists** with reduced workloads and or no work.

CDHA is **meeting with the Public Health Agency of Canada and BMS, our insurance broker, on Monday** and will provide further updates at this time.

CDHA encourages dental hygienists to continue to have open conversations with their employers and clients and work with other members of their dental team to ensure that proper protocols are in place and are followed. Office protocols should be flexible and evolve as the risk changes.

CDHA will continue to provide regular updates as needed to support our members during this challenging time.