



Maine Dental Association's Re-Opening Dental Practices Webinar Frequently Asked Questions

**** Please note that CDC and ADA provide guidance to Dental Health Care Providers. The State of Maine makes laws. The Maine Board of Dental Practice is responsible for licensure of dental professionals. All questions about laws should be directed to Maine DHHS and questions about licensure and "rules" should be directed to the Maine Board of Dental Practice.*

The following is intended as guidance, and not as law or licensure rule. ***

Q: When can the waiting room open?

A: Please refer to the ADA Toolkit "Reception Area Preparation Strategies."

Q: How do you stagger patients?

A: There is no guidance on this current available.

Q: What is the difference between industrial and surgical respirators?

A: Please review: <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/personal-protective-equipment-infection-control/n95-respirators-and-surgical-masks-face-masks>

Q: Who can I contact to have fit testing done in office?

A: If you choose to do a fit test possible options include: hospital occupational safety staff, fire departments, private contractors, etc.

Q: Is fit test needed for KN95s and N95s?

A: Please review:
https://success.ada.org/~media/CPS/Files/COVID/ADA_COVID19_UnderstandingMasks.pdf

Q: If Level 3 mask and face shield is appropriate, is KN95 and face shield appropriate?

A: Please consult:
https://success.ada.org/~media/CPS/Files/COVID/ADA_COVID19_UnderstandingMasks.pdf

Q: To preserve N95s and Level 3 masks, could you wear Level 1 over one of those and a face shield to then sanitize the shield, throw the Level 1 away and reuse the Level 3 or N95 for the next visit?

A: There are no published recommendations on wearing more than one mask at a time to protect/ conserve masks. Mask conservation strategies are found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html#crisis>

Q: What PPE should reception/ front desk staff wear?

A: Front desk staff can wear masks and goggles, or face shields, or offices can install a clear barrier. (MDA guidance)

Q: Do you provide masks to all your patients that do not have one? If so, what level?

A: You may choose to provide a mask free of charge or for a nominal fee for your patients to wear. Cloth face coverings for patients are acceptable.

Q: Can a disposable gown be used for more than one patient?

A: Please consult: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/isolation-gowns.html>

Q: Can we use long lab coats instead of gowns, and do we have to change them after every patient?

A: Please consult: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/isolation-gowns.html>

From the ADA Toolkit:

If available, gowns should be considered.

o Change gown if it becomes soiled.

*o Disposable gowns should be discarded after use. Cloth gowns should be **laundered** after each use.*

*o **Resource:** [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Dental Settings During the COVID- 19 Response](#)*

• If scrubs are to be worn, change between street clothes and scrubs upon entry and exit, or do the same with other office garb.

o Provide laundry facilities in the office.

o Contracting with a laundry service is another option.

o Long sleeved garments should be worn.

Q: How long are we to record patients' temperature and fill out the COVID-19 patient checklist?

A: Please continue to monitor current guidance as it may change in the future.

Q: I am general dentist. Are there any restrictions on what procedures I can proceed with? Or is it up to the provider's best judgement?

A: Please consult: https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/documents/coronavirus/COVID-19-Guidance-for-Health-Care-Providers-051220_.pdf

"Health care from Maine licensed providers, with a recommendation that they prioritize care for patients with time-sensitive conditions; assure the safety of patients, staff, and communities; manage the use of essential resources such as personal protective equipment and testing supplies; and pace reopening services to the level of community COVID-19 activity, maintaining capacity in our hospitals for potential outbreaks."

Q: What are your recommendations for treating a frontline health care worker who has been exposed to COVID-19 and most likely will have continued exposure to COVID-19 patients?

A: Follow the ADA "Patient Screening form" and use your best clinical judgment:

https://success.ada.org/~media/CPS/Files/Open%20Files/ADA_Return_to_Work_Toolkit.pdf

Q: Is there a new consent form for patients to fill out?

A: Per the ADA Toolkit: "Informed consent: check with your malpractice carrier for any consideration of a revised informed consent form. "

Q: Are you charging an additional fee to patients to cover PPE costs?

A: It is up to the practice regarding setting of fees.

Q: As COVID-19 testing becomes more available, are you going to include a test in patient pre-screening?

A: There is no current guidance on this.

Q: Are we allowed to ask if patients have or have had COVID-19?

A: Please see patient screening form:

https://success.ada.org/~media/CPS/Files/Open%20Files/ADA_Return_to_Work_Toolkit.pdf

Q: Do you have to perform a fit test every time you change masks?

A: If you do choose to fit test any mask please see the following:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/respirators-strategy/index.html>

Q: Can a gown that is laundered be used for more than one patient at a time?

A: Please consult: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/isolation-gowns.html>'

Per the ADA Toolkit:

If available, gowns should be considered.

o Change gown if it becomes soiled.

o Disposable gowns should be discarded after use. Cloth gowns should be **laundered** after each use.

o **Resource:** [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Dental Settings During the COVID-19 Response](#)

Q: Do loupes with side shields count as goggles?

A: According to ADA goggles are the protection glasses normally used by the professional during routine procedures. They must protect the eyes and have a side shield. Currently, ADA recommends either goggles or face shield.

Q: What is the protocol for patient who tests positive for COVID-19 after leaving office?

A: Please consult: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>

Q: Any specific concerns for pregnant woman returning to work?

A: Please consult: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/pregnancy-breastfeeding.html>

Per the ADA Toolkit: Information on COVID-19 in pregnancy is very limited; offices may want to consider limiting exposure of pregnant staff to patients, especially during higher risk procedures (e.g., aerosol-generating procedures) if feasible, based on staffing availability. (Source: [Interim U.S. Guidance for Risk Assessment and Public Health Management of Healthcare Personnel with Potential Exposure in a Healthcare Setting to Patients with COVID-19.](#))

Q: What precautions are you following during lunch for your employees?

A: There is no specific guidance written for lunch.