



MEMORANDUM

To: Frank McLaughlin, Executive Director
Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners

From: Sherry B. Adams, Director *Sherry B Adams*
Office of Preparedness & Response

Subject: Availability of PPE for Dentists

Date: May 26, 2020

Recently FEMA added dentists to their list of essential healthcare providers. As such, dentists are eligible to request PPE, provided by the state and federal government from their respective local health departments. I am aware that there are reported instances when such requests were denied by the local health departments. The denials seemed to be based upon the fact that dentists were not specifically listed on the allocation algorithm that was originally developed to guide the distribution of PPE. I have, today, advised the local health officers of the change in FEMA guidance and asked them to do their best to fulfill requests from the dentists in their jurisdictions.

Having said that, I wanted to provide the requesting dentists with appropriate guidance regarding the intent and use of the PPE.

- The intent of the PPE is to facilitate the start-up of the practices, many of which were closed due to the pandemic. The intent is not to provide an on-going supply of PPE. Rather, individual practitioners should continue to source their PPE via their normal supply chain. While the supply chain is ramping up, practitioners may need to look for new sources of PPE as well.
- The dental practitioners must agree to conserve PPE per the CDC guidelines for conservation found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncssov/hcp/ppe-strategy/>. Acceptance of the PPE serves as a commitment to follow the CDC guidance.
- Requests for PPE should be limited to what is reasonable for the practice. CDC has released guidance for the resumption of non-emergency dental procedures. In general, the guidance

states the surgical masks, face shields, gloves and fluid impervious gowns are recommended along with some other important criteria. The guidance is located at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/dental-settings.html>. CDC is also planning on a national COCA call that will be specifically for dentists. I will share that information as soon as it becomes available.

Please let me know of any continuing concerns.