

# **IMPORTANT ORDER AFFECTING ALL MARYLAND DENTISTS**

## **DIRECTIVE AND ORDER REGARDING VARIOUS HEALTHCARE MATTERS**

**March 23, 2020**

**Robert R. Neall, Secretary, Maryland Department of Health**

All dentists and auxiliary personnel must be familiar with and abide by the following order. Pay particular attention to Health Care Provider Matters #6 which all health care providers in Maryland are ordered to follow **INCLUDING DENTISTS AND THEIR AUXILIARY PERSONNEL. THE PHRASE “MEDICAL PROCEDURES” IN THE ORDER INCLUDES DENTISTRY.**

Secretary Neall’s order #6 titled Elective and Non-urgent Medical Procedures – All Health Care Practitioners states in relevant part:

**“[A]ll providers of health care licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized under the Health Occupations Article shall perform only medical procedures that are critically necessary for the maintenance of health for a patient. All elective and non-urgent medical procedures and appointments shall cease effective at 5 p.m., Tuesday, March 24, 2020 and shall not be performed for the duration of the catastrophic health emergency.”**

Again, Secretary Neall’s order includes all dentists and their auxiliary personnel.

**DENTISTS SHALL PERFORM ONLY MEDICAL PROCEDURES THAT ARE CRITICALLY NECESSARY FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF HEALTH FOR A PATIENT. WHILE THE PRACTITIONER MUST USE THEIR BEST PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT IN MAKING THAT DETERMINATION, THEY SHOULD USE THAT SAME JUDGEMENT IN NOT VIOLATING THE INTENT OF THE ORDER.**

**NOTE: REQUIREMENTS OF C.D.C. RECOGNIZED PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT REMAIN IN FORCE.**

**This order supersedes the Dental Board’s COVID – 19 Statement which previously appeared on the Board’s website.**

Thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation through these difficult times.