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.