

Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners

E-Blast

CDC Update

October 5, 2022

With the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) periodically updating its guidelines, including those for health care facilities such as private dental offices, it is essential for licensees to keep abreast of those guidelines to protect their patients, their colleagues, and themselves. On September 23, 2022, the CDC updated its COVID-19 related infection control guidelines, including the use of masks in health care facilities. It is every licensee's responsibility to follow all applicable CDC guidelines. See Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 4-315(a)(30) and § 4-315(b)(18) respectively.

The CDC’s guidelines for enhanced respiratory protection remains in place for health care facilities, including private dental offices. This includes all dental practitioners and office staff.

The revised guidelines provide that **non-healthcare workers** may elect not to wear a facemask in communities where the SARS-CoV-2 Community Transmission levels are not high. However, even if source control is not universally required, it remains recommended for individuals in healthcare settings who are unvaccinated or at high risk for serious COVID-19 infection to continue to mask in dental settings.

Community Transmission levels can be assessed at:

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=all_states&data-type=CommunityLevels

The most recent CDC Guidance for Healthcare Personnel may be accessed via the link below:

Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

Updated: September. 23, 2022

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>