

Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners

Updated Summary of the CDC's COVID-19

Prevention Guidelines

March 15, 2023

1. Respiratory Protection:

A. For patients presenting with a positive COVID test or signs & symptoms consistent with COVID-19, all providers must wear a fit-tested N-95 respirator or the equivalent for any and all dental procedures.

- a) Treatment of these patients should be deferred if possible and/or managed with palliative care until the symptoms have resolved and/or a negative COVID test provided.
- b) If urgent care is necessary, patients should be given a facemask and put into one of the closed rooms and providers follow the above referenced respiratory protection.

B. Patients who test negative or have no signs & symptoms consistent with COVID-19 may be treated with the following:

- a) When providing dental treatment, **a KN95 respirator is highly recommended.**
- b) A level-1 surgical mask should be used to cover the KN95 allowing use of the respirator for multiple patients;
- c) The level-1 surgical mask is changed and disposed of between patients.

2. Facial/Eye Protection:

A. A full face-shield is highly recommended for any and all dental procedures, regardless of COVID-19 status.

3. All other Standard, Contact, Droplet and Airborne Precautions remain in effect.

- CDC COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control Guidance Updated Feb. 8, 2022.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/dental-settings.html>.
<https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/statement-COVID.html>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). *Infection Prevention Checklist for Dental Settings: Basic Expectations for Safe Care*, March 28, 2016,
<https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/pdf/safe-care2.pdf>.

This is a distillation of current CDC guidelines. The MSBDE is not the agency that promulgates regulations, guidelines, or policy on respiratory protection. The MSBDE recommends that our licensees stay current on these ever-changing CDC recommendations. If you have any additional questions please contact Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners Chief Dental Officer at 410-402-8528.