



Saskatchewan Dental Therapists Association

COVID-19 Pandemic IPC Interim Protocol

Effective May 4, 2020

As part of the re-open Saskatchewan Plan access to dental care was reinstated on May 4, 2020.

The Chief Medical Health Officer has updated the public health order under *The Public Health Act*.

RE-OPEN SASKATCHEWAN PLAN - updated May 1, 2020 [link](#)

PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER - May 3, 2020 [link](#)

Critical Public Services to Address COVID-19 and Allowable Business Services [link](#)

The COVID 19 virus remains in our communities thus returning to work is not “business as usual”.

The SDTA’s mandate is to protect the public by regulating our members. Every decision we make is related to the public interest. The SDTA has been given the legal authority by the government of Saskatchewan to protect the public by regulating dental therapists in the province.

An email was sent to members on April 28, 2020 along with the document [CDSS Alert – COVID-19 Pandemic: IPC Interim Protocol Update April 27th, 2020](#). This College of Dental Surgeons (CDSS) protocol addresses Phase 1 of a five phase plan. Members must familiarize themselves with this protocol.

“Phase 1 will include the provision of Non-Aerosol Generating Procedures (NAGP) and Urgent Aerosol Generating Procedures (AGP) in an Appropriate Aerosol Controlled Environment utilizing appropriate Aerosol Protective Measures (APM), for patients who do not meet the criteria for COVID-19 based on the SHA COVID-19 Screening Tool. (Click [HERE](#)) The CDSS recommends dental professionals complete emergent and urgent care as a priority during this phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.” CDSS

“The CDSS may update or modify this Phase as the COVID-19 Pandemic evolves depending on the accumulation of evidence-based research.” CDSS **Check for updates on the CDSS of website.**

Dental practices that cannot follow the CDSS protocol must remain closed. This includes those with a shortage of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and/or lack facility requirements.

INFECTION CONTROL CONSIDERATIONS FOR DENTAL SETTINGS

CDSS - COVID-19 FAQ'S [link](#)

The following is to address some of the concerns of our members.

Aerosols: “Aerosol particles bearing SARS-CoV-2 can be generated during medical and dental procedures when a patient’s saliva is agitated by mechanical forces, such as an ultrasonic scaler, a high-speed handpiece, or spray from an air-water syringe. Therefore, the risk of aerosol transmission can be reduced by avoiding their generation in the first place, by utilizing appropriate PPE, and implementing appropriate aerosol protective measures.” CDSS

Saskatchewan Health Authority COVID-19 PPE Rapid Update [link](#)

Slow-speed handpieces: The use of a slow speed (non-electric and waterless) is not considered an Aerosol Generating Procedure. A slow speed should be used minimally and whenever possible should be used with a rubber dam.

Air-water syringe: The use of an air/water syringe regardless of whether the air and water are used separately is considered an Aerosol Generating Procedure. The air/water syringe can only be used under the guidelines of the Phase 1 - Aerosol Generating Procedure Protocol.

Aerosol Generating Procedure (AGP) Operatory Rooms: Rooms must be isolated rooms from floor to ceiling with an entry or entries that must be closed and secured during the AGP. Such rooms need not be solid walls and a door. Rooms can be plastic walls and a framed or zippered door. See the CDSS protocol for a further description. At this time, it is undetermined as to whether this will be a short-term, long-term or a permanent requirement.

INFORMATION TO ASSIST YOU IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUR PRACTICES RE-OPEN PLAN.

[Saskatchewan Government](#)

[Testing, Screening, Treatment and Medical Directives](#)

[Saskatchewan Health Authority](#)

[COVID – 19 Screening Tool Acute Care Facility](#)

[COVID – 19 Screening Tool Outpatient/Same Day Surgery/Direct Admission](#)

[COVID-19 Resources Health Care Workforce Screening Questionnaire](#)

[COVID – 19 Screening Tool Visitors/Support Persons](#)

Check the [SDTA Website](#) and the [CDSS website](#) for updated information.