



CDSS Alert – CDSS Phase 6 Update FAQ

Q1: Why does CDSS still have COVID mitigation strategies in place when there are no longer any community-based strategies for the public?

A: CDSS is recommending a return to using the *SOPH IPC Standard for Oral Health Care Facilities* (2019) along with the few specific Phase 6 COVID mitigation measures. The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), other health care regulators and businesses are also maintaining some COVID mitigation strategies despite the removal of them for the public.

Q2: Is CDSS creating two standards, one for fully immunized staff and one for all others?

A: No, all practitioners can use their professional judgment with respect to Phase 6 recommendations regardless of immunization status. Immunization status only comes into play when identified as a close contact of a COVID positive symptomatic patient or staff member which may require self-isolation if not fully vaccinated.

Q3: Aerosol Control Environments (ACE), along with settle times, and isolated operatories are no longer required. Is this for all clinics?

A: No. This applies to private practice clinics. Those working in public sector clinics e.g., SHA will have to follow SHA recommendations.

Q4: A Level 3 mask under a face shield is now recommended for situations where an AGP is completed using dental dam and high-volume suction. Does this only apply to fully vaccinated staff only?

A: It applies to all members regardless of immunization status. Members are asked to use their professional judgement when making mask and other PPE choices.

Q5: N95 respirator under a face shield may be considered for AGPs that do not use rubber dam e.g., complex oral surgery, ultrasonic instrumentation. Does this only apply to fully vaccinated staff?



A: The use of an N95 is optional regardless of immunization status and members and staff should use their professional judgement when choosing masks.

Q6: Can we ask staff and patients about their immunization status, and do they have to disclose their immunization status?

A: You can ask but staff and patients do not have to disclose their immunization status.

Q7: What should happen when the dental hygiene guidelines have not changed?

A: CDSS shared the Phase 6 recommendations with the other oral health profession regulators, and they have sent out similar messaging to their members.

Q8: Should social distancing be maintained in the dental clinic setting?

A: Phase 6 allows for open waiting rooms, but members should use their professional judgement on maintaining social distancing in these settings. Members can choose if they want patients to wear masks when entering their practices.

Q9: Are we required to still use COVID screening tools including temperature taking?

A: Yes.

Q10: Do we use the same PPE in phase 6 e.g., caps, gowns, and face shields?

A: CDSS is recommending reverting to the *SOPH IPC Standard for Oral Health Care Facilities (2019)* and asking members to use their professional judgement with respect to maintaining previously recommended COVID PPE. The IPC standard can be found at www.saskdentists.com > Professional Resources > Professional Practice Standard > Professional Practice Standards