

March 17, 2020

As the information and science around COVID-19 continues to evolve, the WDA has maintained an ongoing dialogue with the American Dental Association (ADA), Governor Gordon's office and the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH). We want to ensure that we are making the best decisions with the information and science available in a well-coordinated manor with other health agencies. After assessing the available information here in Wyoming and in coordination with the ADA— we are in alignment with the ADA and the following guidance.

Issues Alert

ADA



March 16, 2020

**ADA Calls Upon Dentists to Postpone Elective Procedures**

Dear Fellow Dentists:

The American Dental Association (ADA) recognizes the unprecedented and extraordinary circumstances dentists and all health care professionals face related to growing concern about COVID-19. The ADA is deeply concerned for the health and well-being of the public and the dental team.

In order for dentistry to do its part to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the ADA recommends dentists nationwide postpone elective procedures for the next three weeks. Concentrating on emergency dental care will allow us to care for our emergency patients and alleviate the burden that dental emergencies would place on hospital emergency departments.

As health care professionals, it is up to dentists to make well-informed decisions about their patients and practices. The ADA is committed to providing the latest information to the profession in a useful and timely manner.

The ADA is continually evaluating and will update its recommendation on an ongoing basis as new information becomes available. Please visit [ADA.org/virus](https://www.ada.org/virus) for the latest information.

If you have questions that are not answered by the FAQ posted at [ADA.org/virus](https://www.ada.org/virus), please email [MSC@ada.org](mailto:MSC@ada.org)

Thank you,

*Chad P. Gehani DDS.*

Chad P. Gehani, DDS  
President

March 17, 2020



This rapidly changing situation has come with an overload of information and misinformation.

**We thank you for your patience during these past few days** as the agencies of authority have sifted through this information to make the correct recommendations to protect our profession and our patients.

During this time the WDA will continue its ongoing dialogue with health officials. We recommend that you take this time to make sure that your practice has appropriate COVID-19 screening protocols in place and that your infection control and OSHA practices are up to date.

The WDA does not take this decision lightly, and it is being done out of an abundance of caution during one of the most disruptive public health emergencies in modern history. As healthcare providers, we all have a role to play by following evidence-based public health advice to help slow the spread of the virus and "flatten the curve."

We believe that by taking these precautions, dentists can make a difference in helping preserve the limited supply of personal protective equipment critical for emergency dental care and front-line healthcare personnel responding to the pandemic. We recognize the gravity of these extreme measures and are sensitive to the economic impact that it will have. Rest assured that the WDA will advocate on behalf of all oral health providers in Wyoming for economic relief.

The WDA Board of Directors recognizes that the three-week recommendation may be lessened or extended as this situation evolves-- please know that the WDA will continue to closely monitor and update our recommendation as needed.

Respectfully,

The Wyoming Dental Association