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Dear Valued Members,

It is important, now more than ever before, that we stay connected to one another; united.

During a March 17, 2020 White House press conference, Dr. Deborah Birx, coordinator for President Trump's response to the pandemic, announced that all doctors and dentists should avoid performing "elective surgeries." This is consistent with the recommendation and guidance we received from the American Dental Association (ADA), asking dentists to forgo "elective" dental procedures for the next few weeks and focus on emergency dental care. The ADA is relying on all the best science and fact-based information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to make recommendations.

As of today, 45 state dental societies, us included, have issued statements to their membership in support of and recommending that we follow the ADA guidelines.

This pandemic has proven to be something that should not be taken lightly—just as the decisions made to forgo all elective dental procedures and focus on dental emergencies only was not taken lightly. The gravity was felt & understood.

When we are called upon to protect—we must do what is right—and sometimes, doing what is right isn't always "fair" or easy.

There are some dentists out there that are going against the recommendations—this is putting everyone at risk.

This is a scary & uncertain time; however, we all need to find our courage, stand up and responsibly do our part by following the guidelines & recommendations that have been set.

These recommendations will "flatten the curve" of the spread of this virus and save lives.

It is our understanding that the CDC will also be releasing additional dental specific guidance by Friday. The incubation period of COVID-19 is two weeks—meaning that, after exposure you could not experience symptoms for up to 14 days. Due to the nature of dentistry, dentists are most prone to exposure—making the virus easily spreadable, not only to themselves, but to their patients, staff and families.

Members—let us remain united by working together, leading by example and making the right choice. Stay safe.

Respectfully,

The Wyoming Dental Association