



MDHHS Dental Practice Guidance for COVID-19

[Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.michigan.gov/Coronavirus)

The following guidance is based on the most current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), American Dental Association (ADA) and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommendations for prevention of the spread of the novel coronavirus of 2019 disease (COVID-19) and the management of Persons Under Investigation (PUI).

Specific guidance for recommended precautions for caregivers in a nonhealthcare setting is documented below. Please review this information with your program's leadership and staff and make any necessary adjustments to your program policies and protocols. This guidance is not intended to address every potential scenario that may arise as the event evolves.

MDHHS is requesting that all Michigan dental professionals do their part to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by following the ADA recommendation that all dental providers 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.

Standard precautions, including the use of proper personal protective equipment, should be followed when caring for any patient. These practices are designed to both protect dental health care professionals and prevent dental health care professionals from spreading infections among patients.

Specific infection control issues during patient assessment:

- Patients with an acute respiratory illness should be identified at check-in and placed in a single-patient room with the door kept closed.
- Seek to prevent the transmission of respiratory infections in healthcare settings by adhering to [respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette infection control measures](#) at the first point of contact with any potentially infected person.
- Offer a disposable surgical mask to persons who are coughing; and provide tissues and no-touch receptacles for used tissue disposal
- Ill persons should wear a surgical mask when outside the patient room.
- Dental healthcare personnel assessing a patient with influenza-like or other respiratory illness should wear disposable surgical facemask*, non-sterile gloves,

gown, and eye protection (e.g., goggles) to prevent exposure. Since recommendations may change as additional information becomes available it's a good idea to check the [CDC website for COVID-19 updates](#).

- Patient and dental healthcare workers should perform hand hygiene (e.g., hand washing with non-antimicrobial soap and water, alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, or antiseptic handwash) after possible contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects/materials.
- Routine [cleaning and disinfection strategies](#) used during influenza seasons can be applied to the environmental management for COVID-19.

*Until additional specific information is available regarding the behavior of COVID-19, the guidance provided in the "[Interim Guidance for the Use of Masks to Control Seasonal Influenza Virus Transmission](#)" is recommended at this time. Also recommended is a review of [Prevention Strategies for Seasonal Influenza in Healthcare Settings](#).