

Good evening,

During the recent update from Premier King and Dr. Morrison today on Dec. 6th, there were changes to Public Health Protocols, and the fact mentioned that we now have community transmission of the virus. The DAPEI Covid response committee and the Registrar of the Dental Council of PEI have moved back the current protocol.

Beginning Monday Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 dental offices on PEI will revert back to Phase IV , initially sent to all members June 12,2020 and attached for your review. These guidelines which you have used before will be in effect until the Dept. of Health goes back to what they consider to be the "New Normal", be it in 2 weeks or whenever.

We want to emphasize the following changes in particular from current practices:

- Hand scale only with HVE - no polish due to spatter
- Rubber dam mandatory for restorative / endo, or no treatment can be provided and appointment deferred
- Use of gowns at all times

It should be stressed that screening is still our most effective tool to minimize exposure to the Coronavirus. Include in your screening questions and defer treatment appointments for two weeks at this time for individuals **in the age group 20-29**, and **those that have been to any of the posted exposure sites**. Of course any people in these groups requiring emergency treatment should be cared for preferably later in the day.

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/alert/update-potential-covid-19-public-exposures-charlottetown-area-december-5-2020>

Encourage staff in the 20—29 age group to be tested ASAP and follow Public Health instructions. Those without symptoms do not need to isolate while waiting for results according to the CMHO.

Ensure that strong adherence to PPE is practiced through the office in all areas including outside the clinical setting. Specifically at lunch,...where masks are removed and people must be distanced. Please continue to encourage all staff to follow the Public Health guidelines outside of the office as well, and if and when possible, exceed these requirements due to our position within the Healthcare system.

In the past we have exhibited constant leadership as a self-governing profession. The confidence of the public has been on our side and as we continue to be vigilant . We expect this to remain.