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British Columbia Dental Association

Manitoba Dental Association

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Northwest Territories & Nunavut Dental Association / Yukon Dental Association

Nova Scotia Dental Association

Ontario Dental Association

Dental Association of Prince Edward Island

The College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan

## Canadian Dental Association

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August 14, 2020

Dr. Gerhard Seeberger FDI World Dental Federation President Avenue Louis-Casaï, 51, 1216 Geneva Switzerland

## Re: Canadian Dentistry Concerned with Lack of Consultation Between WHO and FDI on WHO's Considerations to Delay Non-essential Oral Health Care

Dear Dr. Seeberger,

As you are aware, the World Health Organization (WHO) published its <u>considerations</u> on August 11, 2020, to delay the provision of non-essential oral health care during the COVID-19 pandemic. On behalf of Canadian dentistry, the Canadian Dental Association (CDA) expressed disappointment to WHO regarding its ill-timed and unclear publication, which caused significant confusion in countries, such as Canada, where there is no widespread community transmission of COVID-19.

CDA was surprised and concerned that the WHO neglected to consult with the FDI World Dental Federation before the considerations were published. Consultation could have prevented the negative outcomes that the WHO publication has caused and spared citizens unwarranted doubt that routine oral health care is safe.

CDA took immediate action by making a <u>public statement</u> on August 12, 2020, clarifying that WHO's considerations are not relevant for Canada, and that Canadian dentistry has been doing everything possible to protect the safety of dentists, dental office staff and the public.

We are happy to see that FDI has responded at the international level to the WHO publication with a public statement. To prevent similar situations from reoccurring, CDA strongly encourages FDI to represent dentistry on a global level by enhancing its communications efforts with international organizations, including WHO, as well as FDI members on matters impacting dentistry.

Sincerely,

James Armstrong, BSc, MBA, DMD President

Enclosure: CDA Letter to the World Health Organization - Ill-timed Publication of WHO's Considerations to Delay Non-essential Oral Health Care