



The Newfoundland and Labrador Dental Association (NLDA) has reviewed the considerations of the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) regarding dental settings. The WHO considerations reflect similar considerations that were applied in Newfoundland and Labrador during the peak infection period this Spring. After review the Canadian Dental Association (CDA) and the NLDA interprets that the guidance to be intended for high-risk countries that have alarming rates of COVID-19 infections and community spread, such as the United States, Brazil and Mexico. Canada, including Newfoundland and Labrador, does not fit this profile.

Canada takes its guidance from Health Canada, who in turn works closely with provincial health officers. As of August 12, 2020, 1 out of 62 Americans have contracted COVID-19. In Canada, 1 out of 312 Canadians have contracted COVID-19. In terms of active infection rates in the U.S., 1 out of 2000 individuals are not fully recovered from COVID-19, while in Canada, it is closer to 1 out of 8000 individuals.

NLDA's summer social media campaign collaboration with CDA and other PDAs over the last several months affirmed that dentists are experts in infection control and that dentists have deployed extra precautions as per orders from NL's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Janice Fitzgerald and the Newfoundland and Labrador Dental Board - which align with the guidance now provided by the WHO and informed by the transmission rates in our province.

The NLDA is preparing staff and the Executive Committee members for any

media requests that may occur and we kindly ask that if you are contacted by the media that you contact the NLDA office via phone (709) 579-2362 before accepting any interviews.

It is possible that some of your patients may have some questions and concerns, here are key messages you can use to assure your patients of their safety, and that of everyone in your practice, is your top priority.

- Our office has always followed strict infection control standards. Now there are additional levels of protection in place to create the safest environment for you, other patients and our team during the pandemic and for the future.
- We have new rules and protocols in place to keep patients, staff and dentists protected. Here is what you can expect when you come in for your appointment. [Refer to the [Pandemic Plan](#)]

Our province is in Alert Level 2, but we continue to follow the guidance of our public health officials and strictly stick to proper safety procedures to lower the risk of COVID-19 transmission, in and out of the office. That includes physical distancing, wearing masks and screening.

If you have any particular questions, please reach out.

Thank you,

Amanda Squires

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Newfoundland and Labrador Dental Association