



Good Afternoon,

Here are the most recent updates as of the afternoon of Wednesday, June 17th:

PPE Code

As you've noticed, there has been considerable discussion regarding the PPE codes which you now all have from previous briefings. While it is up to the individual clinics whether or not they use this code, we suggest that if you're using this code you inform patients of the new charge before their appointments.

Pandemic Plan - COVID-19 for Return to Dental Practice

There have been updates made to the current Return to Dental Practice Plan on pages 8 and 9. Please [click here](#) to view the updated plan.

Guideline Differences

Over the past couple of weeks we've had numerous calls from members regarding the differences within the NLDB regulations and the regulations within the plan released by the College of Dental Hygienists.

The Association is recommending that IF there are dental hygienists completing aerosol generating procedures (AGP) then you provide them with the N95

mask or equivalent respirator as outlined in their plan. However, many members have let us know that hygienists are currently only doing non-aerosol generating procedures (non-AGP) which requires an ATSM 3 mask. For example, some offices have looked at having a level 2 dental assistant perform the polish and the hygienist is allowed to assist. The hygiene rules also allows the hygienist to use professional judgment and perform all procedures if the health benefit outweighs the risk. Given our current level 3 and about to go to level 2, the risk is very low and should allow hygienist's to perform AGP.

We've been told that there may be some staff members who are calling for different standards but we ask that you use your professional judgement. If you're able to follow the NLDB guidelines, therefore using the standard of infection control required then it is not necessary to add more costs to yourself and patients. We've also heard that some staff members are still under the impression that walls will need to be in place to have closed rooms but this is not the case as it is not within the NLDB guidelines which is what is to be followed by the dentist and the dental clinic.

With that being said, it's important to note that the dentists, and therefore the dental clinic, are to follow the guidelines of the NLDB and are not required to follow any suggestions and/or guidelines by any other regulatory body or college.

If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Email: nfdental@nfld.net Phone: (709) 579-2362.

Our next update will be Wednesday afternoon, June 14th. We will continue to keep you updated.

Kind Regards,

Amanda Squires on behalf of Dr. Paul Hurley, President of the NLDA

If you have any questions you can contact myself, the Manager of Communications and Members Relations with the NLDA, via email Amanda.nlda@nfd.net or phone: 709-579-2362.