



Good Afternoon,

Here are the most recent updates as of Wednesday, September 9th:

Rotational Workers

As of September 4th, 2020 the CMO, Dr. Janice Fitzgerald announced that rotational workers from Newfoundland and Labrador who work outside Atlantic Canada in another Canadian province or territory will be able to call 811 as early as day five of their 14 day self-isolation period to arrange for COVID-19 testing. With this change the Panel has updated the plan ([click here](#)) under section 4 to include:

1. If during screening it is determined that the patient is a rotational worker who is in self –isolation the clinic is to ask:
 - Has it been five days? If yes,
 - It is recommended that the patient call 811 and ask for testing.
 - The clinic will require a negative COVID test result before moving on.
 - With a negative COVID test result the clinic may treat the patient within the general practice.
 - With a positive COVID test the clinic may treat the patient as outlined in the Emergency Care Protocol.

If a rotational worker does NOT get a COVID test done due to short turn around times or personal choice, or the situation is specifically urgent, the office is recommended to follow the Emergency Care Protocol only and no non-essential care will take place.

Pandemic Fatigue: School Reopening

To date, good infection prevention control practices have resulted in no patient transmission in dental offices. However, now that schools are opening for the year there could be a higher risk of transmission throughout the province so it is extremely important that you are following the protocol. Lessons for the dental profession:

1. Examine and continue to respect social distancing practices in the office: beware of pandemic fatigue which grows over time.
2. Urge caution with respect to any travel and going to bars and restaurants.
3. Generally, outbreaks and case transmission to date among health care personnel are associated with common areas, such as lunchrooms or washrooms. This remains a significant concern. Remind dental office staff of the following:
 - Never let your guard down.
 - Always wear masks while in the dental office. Given the increased pressure on the supply of all types of medical grade masks, a personal cloth mask that is washed daily is a good alternative when not performing clinical duties, when on breaks, or when entering/leaving the office.
 - Practice social distancing in lunchrooms, sterilization rooms, and other common areas to avoid the spread of the virus.
 - Take all necessary precautions, including disinfecting common area surfaces, such as counters, door handles, faucets, sinks and toilets.

- Clean hands frequently.
- 4. There needs to be continued vigilance regarding the screening and pre-screening of patients.
- 5. Dental offices within cluster outbreak areas should be extra cautious. Cluster outbreaks can be related to a specific indoor facility in their respective area, such as a hospital, processing plant, bar, restaurant or specific large family gatherings. These outbreaks need to be taken into consideration when dental offices screen/pre-screen individuals to help minimize the risk of the spread of infection.

The NLDA and CDA have created these posters as a resource to place throughout your dental clinic. [Poster One](#). [Poster Two](#). [Poster Three](#).
Click on the links to download and print.

Mental Health and Wellness

What are the Four Agreements?

1. Be impeccable with your word
2. Don't take anything personally
3. Don't make assumptions
4. Always do your best

Here is a video summary of Author Don Miguel Ruiz's best selling book called The Four Agreements. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMnppBKYikk&feature=youtu.be>

Virtual Oral Health Convention

Friendly reminder that the NLDA is having the annual OHC virtually this year! The Convention will run from Friday, November 20th - Saturday, November 21st and will include speakers and a tradeshow.

Registration will be opening next week so be sure to keep an eye out for the registration invitation emails!

Our next update will be Wednesday afternoon, September 16th. We will continue to keep you updated.

Kind Regards,

Amanda Squires on behalf of Dr. Michelle Zwicker, President of the NLDA

If you have any questions you can contact the NLDA, via email nfdental@nfld.net or phone: 709-579-2362.