

CDA COVID-19 UPDATE



A Message for CDA Stakeholders

Below is a snapshot of the Canadian Dental Association's (CDA) pandemic work for the week ending July 10, 2020.

This Week's Fast Facts: COVID-19 Situational Report

Worldwide: In the past week, an additional 1.4 million new cases were added for a total 12.4 million infections worldwide. This represents a 13% week over week increase in new increases.

USA: In the United States (U.S.), the number of cases exceeds 3.2 million or over 300k new cases in one week. There is a very concerning surge in positive tests (over 60k daily and rising), meaning case growth again exceeded 13% while most western countries have had minimal new case growth. A current trend sees more young people being infected compared to earlier times of the U.S. epidemic, which affected older Americans. This means a lower death rate and hospital admissions in the short term, but greater community spread and increased trend of complications, hospitalizations and deaths that are anticipated to increase continuously in the coming weeks. The death rate for all infections in the U.S. represents continues to drop because of the rapid rate of new infections however the rate of hospitalization has increased dramatically in recent days.

Individual States: Some states continue to report record number of single-day cases. Spikes are associated with decreased compliance with public health social distancing recommendations, and more infections following group gatherings.

Canada: Canada saw approximately 2,000 new cases added compared to 4,000 in the previous two weeks. This is positive news and more manageable compared to the U.S. The death rate of all infections remains 8.2%, with new deaths representing far less than

1% of total cases per week which is largely attributed to outbreaks in health care settings, long-term care facilities, food processing plants, etc. with Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Quebec still experiencing limited new cases and/or outbreaks. Many provinces saw new deaths this week, with Quebec representing 64% of all COVID-related deaths and Ontario 31%. This week some increase in reports that are related to individuals traveling outside their communities and coming into contact with individuals with COVID. Additionally, the Southwestern Ontario farming communities and the Toronto area are reporting significant new cases daily.

Government of Canada: The Government of Canada continues to prepare for a second wave this Fall, and is stockpiling personal protective equipment (PPE). *The Public Health Agency of Canada's (PHAC)* response to the pandemic has moved from a crisis response to one of long-term management. *PHAC* is concerned about the trends in the U.S. and has been sending warnings and reminders for individual to remain vigilant to help protect themselves against contracting COVID-19

Reminder! Dental Profession to Remain Vigilant

CDA reminds the dental profession that there needs to be continued vigilance regarding the screening and pre-screening of patients.

In general, 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. Individuals are reminded of the following:

- Do not let your guard down.
- Continue to take all necessary precautions, including disinfecting common area surfaces, such as counters, door handles, faucets, sinks and toilets.
- Clean hands frequently.
- Respect the need to socially distance to avoid the spread of the virus.

Advocacy:

New! Economic and Fiscal Snapshot Revealed

On July 8, 2020, Finance Minister, Bill Morneau, released an “Economic and Fiscal Snapshot” in Parliament. This is not a formal Budget, nor is it a Fiscal Update, but it provides information on the general state of the economy and the government’s books as a result of the COVID-19 crisis mitigation programs.

Top-line takeaways:

- The budget deficit is projected to be \$343 Billion for 2020-2021. This compares to an anticipated deficit of \$34.4 Billion before the crisis. Canada's total debt will reach \$ 1.2 Trillion.
- The deficit is driven in part by a \$106 Billion drop in government revenues.
- The economy is projected to shrink by 6.8% this fiscal year.
- Unemployment is projected to stay at around 10% for remainder of the year.
- The economy is expected to rebound by 5.5% by 2021

The “snapshot” was not intended to have any new policy announcements; however, two key pieces of information were announced:

1. An extra \$50 Billion will be allocated for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, with some indication that the program will be extended and the qualification criteria will be changed. This is a positive development since CDA has asked for an extension previously, and are beginning to ask for the revenue qualifiers to be reviewed.
2. An extra \$10 Billion will be allocated for Employment Insurance in the coming fiscal year. This would suggest that the [Canada Emergency Response Benefit](#) (CERB) will sunset as currently planned at the end of August, and that those who are still on the CERB at that time will be transferred back to the EI system.

CDA will continue to track any further developments or announcements and report updates as information becomes available.

New! Auditor General to Study Management of PPE Stockpile, COVID Programs

The Auditor-General (AG) of Canada, Karen Hogan, announced this week that she will study the government's management of personal protective equipment (PPE) as part of her first round of audits on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The study would focus on how the stockpile of vital PPE was managed, as well as how it was procured and distributed during the pandemic.

The first round of audits will also include reviews of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS).

Unlike most audits conducted by the AG's office, the study of each area will be released as it becomes available. This is being done to allow the government to respond and react if needed should a second wave of the virus hit.

The audits will consider the finances of the programs, though despite the name of the office, a more significant emphasis will be on program management, and whether if these programs delivered based on their strategic policy goals.

CDA's Return to Practice Task Force (The Task Force):

The Task Force includes representatives from all Corporate Member provincial dental associations (PDAs). The Task Force meets bi-weekly to discuss deliverables for:

1. information exchange on return-to-practice status across the country;
2. strategies for obtaining and securing PPEs; and
3. communications to the public on dentists returning to practice.

Launched! News Release Issued and Social Media Campaign: Taking Care of your Oral Health, Your Dentist is Ready to See You

On July 7, 2020, CDA issued a [news release](#) to encourage the public to see their dentist, to get back to oral health, and to restart routine care as soon as possible. This release activated CDA's social media campaign which consists of nine posts and a range of graphics. For maximum impact, Corporate Member PDAs have been provided with the bilingual messaging and supporting graphics. The materials can be customized, liked and shared among the public and dentists, as deemed appropriate.



**Your dentist
is ready to see you.**

Upcoming: Tips on Extending the Life of PPE

To assist the Task Force in its work, CDA Oasis is in the process of putting together a video series with dentists from across the country related to their experiences in return to practice; tips on how to extend the life of PPE in their part of the country; and stories of small companies helping dentists to be creative in managing the PPE shortage. The series also explores dentists' return to practice processes; collaboration efforts; how they prepared their staff; and patient communications. Interviews shows that patients are eagerly looking to return to their dental home for regular care, and while it was difficult to return to practice initially, it is becoming easier with experience and time to adjust to the new normal. CDA Oasis has had 16 dentists lined up to be interviewed, with the majority already completed. The recruiting process is continuing. Should Corporate

Member PDAs have a dentist in mind to be interviewed for this series, please forward details to [Dr. Chiraz Guessaier](#). Stay tuned for more information.

Reminder: The Task Force continues to review and prioritize its list of deliverables. Any specific expectations or special requests of the Task Force should be fed forward by Corporate Member PDAs to their PDA member Task Force representative.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

New! Counterfeit Respirators Identified by Health Canada: On July 6, 2020, Health Canada issued an [advisory](#) regarding counterfeit N95 respirators that have been identified in Canada.

Shanghai Lansheng Light Industrial Products was found to be selling counterfeit N95 respirators under another company's name (Shanghai Dasheng Health Products Manufacture Co. Ltd) and using its device number (DTC3X N95). The counterfeit respirators were falsely labeled, marketed and sold as NIOSH-approved.

Consumers are advised to stop using these counterfeit products immediately, as they may not protect Canadians against the virus that causes COVID-19.

Reminder: CDA's webpage on [counterfeit, sub-standard and non-equivalent N95-like respirators](#) provides helpful information about N95 compliance; varieties and markings; importing liability issues; and more. Corporate Member PDAs can continue to use this [bilingual social media promo pack](#) to help raise awareness of counterfeit PPE issues among dentists. The promo pack includes four targeted social media posts which can be paired with either CDA-branded or non-branded graphic cards. The messaging can be adjusted, as deemed appropriate.



For tips to spot counterfeit masks and other helpful links, [click here](#).

Beware! New FedEx Scam Targeting Dental Offices Across Canada

On July 10, 2020, the [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#) (CAFC) has been notified by FedEx of a new scam targeting dental offices across Canada. CAFC advised CDA that dental offices should be on the lookout for unsolicited packages arriving via FedEx claiming to contain PPE and other items such as equipment (monitors) to offices. These deliveries are part of a scheme that results in offices being charged for the subsequent delivery of these products to BAHRAIN.

What to do: CAFC/RCMP recommend that these packages not be accepted at the time of delivery, but refused and returned to sender. This prevents dental offices from being held responsible for the unsuspected shipping charges.

Corporate Member PDAs are encouraged to communicate this information to dental offices in their respective jurisdictions.

Knowledge and Information Broker:

[CDA Oasis](#) is CDA's primary channel of communication for delivering urgent information to the dental community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This week's **CDA Oasis Bulletin** collated relevant and timely "[news that you can use](#)" related to COVID-19.

Reminder! **CDA Essentials Issue 4** is available [online](#). Content specific to COVID-19 includes the *President's Column*, *CDA at Work*, *N95 Respirators Guide*, *Your COVID-19 Questions Answered*, *Using Teledentistry to Reach Patients*, *Helping the Community in the Early Days*, and *Supporting Dentists During the Pandemic*. Read these [articles and more](#).

Mental Health and Wellness:

With the COVID-19 pandemic placing significant strain on individuals and families across the country, it's more important than ever to safeguard your mental health and overall wellness.

CDA continues to actively promote available mental health and wellness support through CDSPI's Members' Assistance Program (MAP) via social media, its Help Desk service, and on its website. MAP can be accessed by calling **1.844.578.4040** or visiting www.workhealthlife.com

New! One wellness post featured in the Mental Health Corner of [CDA Oasis](#):

- [Stress Reduction Tips](#):
How can dentists better manage stress levels and restore balance in their lives, while coping at the same time with the workload that comes with their chosen profession? Dr. Uche Odiatu speaks about the physiology behind the stress response and shares his top three practical tips on how to reduce stress and tension in the body and attain a more peaceful state. **(July 6, 2020)**



Free counselling, referral and information service for dentists, dental office employees, and their families.

CDA Help Desk:

CDA's Help Desk continues to assist dentists and dental office employees on how to navigate and access federal government support programs.

For assistance, please call **1-866-232-0385, M-F, 7:30 A.M. – 8:00 p.m. EDT.**



The CDA COVID-19 Response Team works diligently on a range of fronts to help minimize and mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on the dental profession. CDA is working to address scientific, clinical, economic and business-related matters impacting dentistry, including efforts to increase awareness about the mental health and wellness of dentists, their families and dental office employees during these challenging times. CDA will communicate regular updates as new information becomes available.



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