

The Governor has announced a plan to begin to take South Dakota "back to normal". For dental offices the plan indicates that "non-hospital healthcare, including clinic visits, can resume so long as providers secure adequate supplies of personal protective equipment without relying on the state supply". Here is the link to the complete "plan": https://covid.sd.gov/docs/COVID_SDPlan_BackToNormal.pdf

The ADA guidance and CDC recommendations to delay elective dental procedures and focus on emergent and urgent care is still in effect until April 30.

We know that many dental offices are searching for appropriate PPE. The usual supply chain of dental PPE has been reduced to approximately 10% of normal as most PPE is being redirected by the Federal Government. The States are receiving some PPE, but South Dakota is not releasing it to dental offices. We are trying everything we can to get dental offices access to the State's cache, but it appears that we are not going to get access to that anytime soon.

As you purchase PPE, please secure it from reliable sources. If buying KN95 masks, please make sure the supplier is getting masks through one of the companies on the FDA list of authorized importers/manufactures: <https://www.fda.gov/media/136663/download>. This list changes regularly – as new manufactures are approved.

Per the ADA's interim guidance, offices are advised to use the highest level of PPE available. N95 and KN95 masks are highly recommended, but only required when treating known or suspected-positive COVID 19 patients. The ADA's recommended appointment and registration screening process should be used to determine a patient's condition.

We will share any leads to authorized masks. If you have a good source that you are able to share, please send it to me.

Here are few sources from which SDDA members have found regionally-produced face shields:

<https://www.kota.tech/ppe>

<https://www.bonefoam.com/>

<https://www.sparxhockey.com/pages/sparx-medical-face-shield>

As offices reopen they should follow the ADA's "Return to Work Interim Guidance Toolkit". It can be found online at: <https://www.ada.org/en>. In addition to the ADA's interim guidance the SDDA recommends that members adhere to the following:

- Closely observe any changes to the spread of COVID 19 in your local area and follow local and state orders to close or restrict practicing.
- When scheduling patients, place any patients with compromised health conditions at the beginning of your daily schedule.
- Follow all social distancing practices (which may go beyond the ADA guidance) as required in your local area.
- Closely monitor the SDDA and ADA websites and communications for further interim guidance.