

Greetings:

We understand this is an incredibly challenging time for all. The South Dakota Department of Health (SD-DOH) continues to respond to the emergence of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). SD-DOH is working with the CDC and healthcare partners across the state to protect South Dakotans from COVID-19. Dentists are in the highest risk categories for both transmission and contraction of the COVID-19 because a majority of the procedures performed create significant aerosols in the operatories. As dental professionals, we are a part of the healthcare community and have a responsibility in the prevention and mitigation efforts of the SD-DOH during this outbreak. At this time, individuals and providers are being asked to follow the recommendations of the SD-DOH. The SD-DOH has set up a [Novel Coronavirus \(COVID\) 19](#) website that is regularly updated and includes links to other resources. Please reference this website routinely for up to date information on COVID-19 and utilize that information accordingly.

Additional resources that may be helpful:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) created a [COVID-19 website](#). The CDC is also developing guidance on responding to [COVID-19 in dental settings](#).
- The FDA developed guidance on [conserving personal protective equipment](#).
- South Dakota has the following listservs that you can subscribe to for updates and information:
 - Health Alert Network: <https://sdhan.sd.gov>
 - Epi (Epidemic) Listserv: <https://listserv.sd.gov/scripts/wa.exe?SUBED1=SDEPI&A=1>
 - Healthcare-associated Infections Listserv: <https://listserv.sd.gov/scripts/wa.exe?SUBED1=SDHCASSOCINFECTIONS&A=1>
- The American Dental Association (ADA) has created a [Coronavirus Resource Center for Dentists](#), which includes recommendations for dental professionals.

During this time of uncertainty, it is important to stay informed and take proper precautions to protect yourself and others from the spread of the virus. The recommendations for COVID-19 are changing as officials learn more about the virus, so please routinely monitor sources for updates. If we receive guidance specific to the operation of dental offices from the SD-DOH, we will convey that information to licensees immediately.

Please note that our office continues to operate during this declared state of emergency to assist licensees and registrants with activities that fall under the Board's jurisdiction. We appreciate the commitment and collective effort of dental professionals state wide during this challenging time.

Brittany