

This crisis has created unprecedented levels of stress and anxiety for many people. There are resources available to help dentists be well. South Dakota resources can be found on the SDDA website at: <https://www.sddental.org/member-center/member-wellness-service>. Overall wellness, and mental health resources, can also be accessed through the ADA:

https://success.ada.org/en/wellness?utm_source=cpsorg&utm_medium=covid-nav&utm_content=nav-mental-health&utm_campaign=covid-19.

As more and more dental offices reopen to elective procedures, there are many questions about proper PPE. There is some confusion about the differences between the guidance being given by the ADA vs. CDC and OSHA. The attached document, provided by the ADA, helps dentists understand how offices can do a “hazard assessment” and determine what PPE is needed in the dental office.

In our attempts to secure N95 and KN95 masks, it has been a rare occasion to find masks from a manufacturer on the FDA approved list: <https://www.fda.gov/media/136663/download>. This list is updated regularly and reposted to the same site. It appears that many of the masks that have been offered are “gray market”, so please be cautious. To learn more about counterfeit PPE visit the NIOSH site: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/usernotices/counterfeitResp.html>.

For offices that are able to secure N95 masks, please understand that staff using the masks should be fit tested in order to ensure effectiveness of the mask. Many local hospitals are offering fit testing. The SDDA has trained a group of fit testers and will be training more over the next month, however, our fit testers will not have access to fit testing kits until late June. See the attached list of fit testers that we are aware of at this time. If you know of others who are doing fit testing in your area, please let me know and we will add them to our list.