Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 and COVID-19

Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) transmission continues to be a community and global problem requiring implementation of public health initiatives and impacting oral health care delivery. The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) recognizes the importance of vaccinations and infection control policies, procedures, and practices in health care settings to prevent disease transmission and strongly encourages dentists to be vaccinated against coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Safety of the patient and dental team is an essential component of oral health care. Occupational risk of COVID-19 infection, the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, for dental professionals has been reported to be controlled by infection control procedures. Practitioners should use a combination of standard, contact, and droplet precautions when performing patient care. The AAPD encourages dentists to follow current research and best practices in infection control and to consult state and local regulatory agencies for recommendations to minimize risk of COVID-19.

Because the issues and understanding of SARS-CoV-2 continue to evolve, the AAPD offers two online resource hubs:

- **Beyond Re-emergence Pediatric Dentistry Practice Checklist** ([https://www.aapd.org/about/about-aapd/news-room/aapd-practice-checklist-resources/](https://www.aapd.org/about/about-aapd/news-room/aapd-practice-checklist-resources/)) guides practices during the pandemic.

The following links are considered primary sources of information regarding SARS CoV-2/COVID-19:

**COVID-19: Status Updates and Information Pages**

- **Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center** provides daily updates, cases and trends by United States counties and globally, and more ([https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/](https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/)).
- **Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR): Novel Coronavirus Reports** is dedicated to SARS-CoV-2 in the MMWR ([https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/Novel_Coronavirus_Reports.html](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/Novel_Coronavirus_Reports.html)).
- **World Health Organization** provides an international perspective on Coronavirus ([https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1)) and the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on a global scale ([https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019)).

**COVID-19: Vaccines, Infection Control Tools, and Readings**

- **Cochrane: Recommendations for the re-opening of dental services: a rapid review of international sources** ([https://oralhealth.cochrane.org/news/recommendations-re-opening-dental-services-rapid-review-international-sources](https://oralhealth.cochrane.org/news/recommendations-re-opening-dental-services-rapid-review-international-sources)).

References