

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 Transmission

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 infection control policies, procedures, and practices in health care settings to prevent disease transmission. 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.¹ Practitioners should use a combination of standard, contact, and droplet precautions² 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 SARS-CoV-2 transmission.

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

- **COVID-19 Updates and Resources** (<https://www.aapd.org/about/about-aapd/news-room/COVID-19/>) provides links to resources that promote safety and best practices in pediatric oral health care and maintenance of a dental home relative to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The original **Re-emergence Pediatric Dentistry Practice Checklist** (<https://www.aapd.org/globalassets/media/covid-19/aapd-practice-checklist.pdf>) has been supplemented by the hub (<https://www.aapd.org/about/about-aapd/news-room/aapd-practice-checklist-resources/>) to guide re-entry into 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

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Coronavirus COVID-19** is the CDC's COVID-19 resource hub featuring individual pages on a wide range of pandemic topics (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>).
- **Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center** provides daily updates, cases and trends by United States counties and globally, and more (<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>).
- **American Dental Association Coronavirus (COVID-19) Center for Dentists** is a curated website of infection control and practice tools (including the **Return to Work Interim Guidance Toolkit** and **COVID-19 Hazard Assessment Guide and Checklist**), research, and news (<https://success.ada.org/en/practice-management/patients/infectious-diseases-2019-novel-coronavirus>).
- **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Coronavirus Disease 2019** provides links to clinical and technical guidance on health care practice during the COVID-19 pandemic (<https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Current-Emergencies/Current-Emergencies-page>).
- **Food and Drug Administration Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)** covers topics such as emergency authorization of medical products, vaccines, and personal protective equipment (<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/counterterrorism-and-emerging-threats/coronavirus-disease-2019-COVID-19>).
- **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).
- **American Academy of Pediatrics Critical Updates on COVID-19** offers practice advice, research, and news related to COVID-19 and children's health (<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-COVID-19-infections/>).
- **World Health Organization** provides an international perspective on **Coronavirus Disease** (https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1) and the **COVID-19 Pandemic** on a global scale (<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>).

COVID-19: Infection Control Tools and Readings

- **CDC Guidance for Dental Settings: Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Dental Settings During the COVID-19 Pandemic** (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/dental-settings.html>).
- **Occupational Safety and Health Administration COVID-19 Control and Prevention: Dentistry Workers and Employers** (<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/dentistry.html>) and **Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for Covid-19** (<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>).
- **Environmental Protection Agency List N: Disinfectants for Coronavirus (COVID-19)** (<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19>).
- **Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention/DentaQuest Partnership for Oral Health Advancement Best Practices for Infection Control in Dental Clinics During the COVID-19 Pandemic** (https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.osap.org/resource/resmgr/dentaquest/INC-1353_Best_Practices_for_.pdf).
- **American Society of Dental Anesthesiologists Coronavirus Resources** (<https://asda.org/COVID-19-pandemic/>).
- **Cochrane: Recommendations for the re-opening of dental services: a rapid review of international sources** (https://oralhealth.cochrane.org/sites/oralhealth.cochrane.org/files/public/uploads/COVID19_dental_reopening_rapid_review_07052020.pdf).
- **CDC Scientific Brief: SARS-CoV-2 and Potential Airborne Transmission** (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/scientific-brief-sars-cov-2.html>).
- **Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme Mitigation of aerosol generating procedures in dentistry: A rapid review** (<https://www.sdcep.org.uk/published-guidance/COVID-19-practice-recovery/rapid-review-of-agps/>).

References

1. Nardone, M, Cordone, A, Petti, S. Occupational COVID-19 risk to dental staff working in a public dental unit in the outbreak epicenter. *Oral Dis* 2020;00:1-13. Available at: "https://doi.org/10.1111/odi.13632". Accessed October 12, 2020.
2. Harte JA. Standard and transmission-based precautions in dentistry. *J Am Dent Assoc* 2010;141(5):572-81. Available at: "https://germiphene.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Standard-Transmission-based-Precautions-JADA.pdf". Accessed October 12, 2020.