

STATE GOVERNOR AND STATE SOCIETY POSITION STATEMENTS - Updated 12:45 PM 3/18/2020

State Governor Website	State Society	Society Statement	Society Website
Alabama	ALABAMA	It is the recommendation of the Alabama Department of Public Health that all non-urgent dental procedures between Thursday, March 19, 2020 and Friday, April 9, 2020 be postponed. The situation will be reassess at that time and new guidance will be issued.	State Society Page
Alaska	ALASKA	The COVID-19 virus continues to spread nationwide with 2 new cases in Alaska as of 3/16. The ADS joined the ADA in urging dental offices to close for elective dental treatment for 3 weeks.	State Society Page
Arizona	ARIZONA		State Society Page
Arkansas	ARKANSAS	In conjunction with the Arkansas Department of Health and the Arkansas State Board of Dental Examiners, the ASDA recommends a voluntary suspension of all non-emergency or non-urgent dental care to all dental patients through March 27, 2020, or longer depending on the severity of the pandemic in Arkansas.	State Society Page
California	CALIFORNIA	The California Dental Association strongly recommends that dentists practicing in California voluntarily suspend non-urgent or non-emergency dental care for the next 14 days. As always, it is expected that dentists will continue to be available as needed for emergency care and services.	State Society Page
Colorado	COLORADO	The CDA and ADA recommend that all dentists close their offices for three weeks to patients seeking elective and non-urgent care. During that time dentists should provide only emergency dental care and medically necessary care. This will allow us to care for our most critical patients, while also alleviating the burden that emergency dental care would put on hospitals.	State Society Page
Connecticut	CONNECTICUT	The CSDA Board of Governors recommends that Connecticut dentists consider postponing elective and routine care for two weeks starting March 18, 2020.	State Society Page
District of Columbia	DC	In addition to halting all hospital elective procedures, the District of Columbia Department of Health (DC Health) is recommending that ALL elective medical procedures, non-urgent hospital and outpatient visits, and non-urgent dental procedures be postponed to preserve health care capacity as our community mitigation strategies work to flatten the epidemic curve.	State Society Page
Delaware	DELAWARE		State Society Page
Florida	FLORIDA	As the Florida Dental Association (FDA) continues to monitor updates and information from national and state officials and health leaders, we are sharing the following statement from the American Dental Association (ADA) recommending that dentists postpone elective procedures and concentrate on providing emergency dental care. If a mandate is issued to close dental offices or limit treatment to emergency care, we will notify our members immediately. We continue to urge members to exercise an abundance of caution and regularly check all communications from the FDA and ADA, as well as regularly check the CDC and ADA websites	State Society Page
Georgia	GEORGIA	The GDA board of Trustees is advising all GDA member dentists to follow the recommendations provided by the Georgia Department of Public Health and the ADA, with one exception. We advise following the recommendation of the CDC and the President's White House Coronavirus Task Force Member, Dr. Deborah L. Brix, to postpone any elective surgery through the end of March (Fifteen days).	State Society Page
Hawaii	HAWAII	Our HDA Board of Trustees has met, and encourages our members to heed this recommendation. If you are treating emergencies, please be extremely careful to follow, if not exceed, all appropriate recommended infection control measures. We do not make this recommendation lightly, as we are very aware of the impact to your patients, dental personnel and their families, your practice, and your families. The HDA will work with decision makers and others on behalf of our members to seek economic relief and to minimize the long-term impact on your offices. The ADA is already working at the federal level to advocate for relief for dental offices.	State Society Page
Idaho	IDAHO	In order for dentistry to do its part to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the ADA recommends dentists nationwide postpone elective procedures for the next three weeks. Concentrating on emergency dental care will allow us to care for our emergency patients and alleviate the burden that dental emergencies would place on hospital emergency departments.	State Society Page

Illinois	ILLINOIS	<p>The measures that ISDS is recommending for dental offices will be in effect for the two-week period beginning Tuesday, March 17 through Tuesday, March 31:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat only patients requiring emergency dental procedures. • Postpone elective dental treatment and procedures. • Preserve personal protective equipment (PPE) for emergency dental situations. This action will also preserve the limited supply of PPE so it can be used for urgent and more complex medical care that will be needed in our healthcare system. • Communicate the utmost importance of the health and safety of our patients, the dental team and our community in implementing these measures 	State Society Page
Indiana	INDIANA	The IDA and ADA recommend that dentists postpone elective procedures for the next three weeks	State Society Page
Iowa	IOWA	The IDA recommends following the ADA guidelines that all dentists close their offices for three weeks to patients seeking elective and non-urgent care. During that time dentists should provide only emergency dental care and medically necessary care. This will allow us to care for our most critical patients, while also alleviating the burden that emergency dental care would put on hospitals.	State Society Page
Kansas	KANSAS	In order for dentistry to do its part to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the ADA recommends dentists nationwide postpone elective procedures for the next three weeks. Concentrating on emergency dental care will allow us to care for our emergency patients and alleviate the burden that dental emergencies would place on hospital emergency departments.	State Society Page
Kentucky	KENTUCKY	The KDA supports the position expressed by KBOD. KBOD has also expressed that this policy is not directive. It is a "request" and not intended to be an enforcement issue. But it is important to know that this action is important to "flatten the curve" in order to avoid the very real possibility of overtaxing our healthcare system and compromising our ability to care for those infected by the virus. In making this request, KBOD is relying upon your professional judgment and interpretation of what constitutes "elective dental care which will not negatively affect the patient."	State Society Page
Louisiana	LOUISIANA	As of Monday, March 16, there are no mandatory restrictions specific to dentistry in Louisiana. It is up to individual practices to determine whether to continue appointments beyond those that are emergencies or are medically necessary, based on your discretion (bearing in mind today's statement from the ADA, reprinted below). Practices are encouraged to exceed standard infection control procedures and implement policies to minimize patients' time and possible contact in the waiting room.	State Society Page
Maine	MAINE	At this time, the Maine Dental Association is recommending that all dental practices in Maine follow the Maine CDC and Governor Mills' recommendation to suspend non-urgent dental procedures for the next 14 days and then re-evaluate at that time.	State Society Page
Maryland	MARYLAND	<p>As this situation continues to develop and evolve, the number one priority is to protect you. As of yet, no direct restrictions have been placed on Dentists. The decision is yours as to how you proceed through this. The MSDA suggests the following recommendations as you consider your options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triage patients and send home less critical patients to prevent overcrowding as appropriate • Practices should consider remaining open to see emergency and urgent patient needs • Elective services should be considered with great scrutiny • Notify all patients to contact the office before arriving for an appointment • Any patient you consider seeing should be thoroughly screened for illness, including, but not limited to, recent travel, mid to large group social interaction, and taking regular temperature readings • If seeing patients, rearrange the waiting area to provide recommended spacing (6-10 ft) per patient • Aggressively use appropriate and fitting PPE for all dental office personnel • Frequently clean and disinfect all public areas including door handles, countertops, chairs, restrooms, etc. • Use a rubber dam, high-speed evacuation, and have the patient use a 1% hydrogen peroxide rinse to decrease the potential exposure and spread of infectious agents • Autoclave handpieces after each patient • Elderly and others with certain health risks and conditions are more susceptible to catching the virus. Children and healthy younger adults present more mild symptoms. Appropriate risk/benefits should be discussed and more thoroughly scrutinized • When in doubt, err on the side of caution 	State Society Page
Massachusetts	MASSACHUSETTS	The MDS strongly recommends that dentists practicing in the Commonwealth close their offices from March 17 to April 6 to patients seeking elective and non-urgent care.	State Society Page

Michigan	MICHIGAN	Therefore, the Michigan Dental Association is strongly recommending that Michigan dentists close their offices beginning March 17 for at least two weeks to patients seeking preventive and elective care, and limit treatment to necessary treatment and patients requiring emergency care.	State Society Page
Minnesota	MINNESOTA	The Minnesota Dental Association in conjunction with the Minnesota Board of Dentistry strongly recommends that dentists practicing in Minnesota voluntarily suspend nonessential or non-urgent dental care for the next 14 days. As always, it is expected that dentists will continue to be available as needed for emergency care and services.	State Society Page
Mississippi	MISSISSIPPI	Link provided to ADA site.	State Society Page
Missouri	MISSOURI	The MDA Board of Trustees has been closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation and supports the guidance by the American Dental Association. (ADA Calls Upon Dentists to Postpone Elective Procedures, March 16, 2020) In the interest of protecting public health, we urge members to comply with the recommendations outlined by the ADA.	State Society Page
Montana	MONTANA	As health care professionals, it is up to dentists to make well-informed decisions about their patients and practices. The MDA is committed to providing the latest information to the profession in a useful and timely manner. We encourage MDA members to review the recommendations from the ADA and Center for Disease Control for guidance on how to proceed under these challenging circumstances.	State Society Page
Nebraska	NEBRASKA	For this reason, the NDA Board of Trustees had an emergency meeting today (3/16), including consulting Dr. Charles Craft, State Dental Director, where we took a unanimous vote to recommend that dental offices in Nebraska postpone any non-emergent care starting 3/17/2020 and ending 4/1/2020. Dentists need to list an emergency phone number for patients to contact in an emergent situation.	State Society Page
Nevada	NEVADA	It is recommended that all dental offices in the State of Nevada postpone elective dental procedures for the next 14 days. Effective Wednesday, March 18, 2020 with a tentative return date of Wednesday, April 1, 2020. At that time, further recommendations may be issued to further protect the public and your staff.	State Society Page
New Hampshire	NEW HAMPSHIRE	In order for dentistry to do its part to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the ADA and NHDS recommends dentists nationwide postpone elective procedures for the next three weeks. Concentrating on emergency dental care will allow us to care for our emergency patients and alleviate the burden that dental emergencies would place on hospital emergency departments.	State Society Page
New Jersey	NEW JERSEY	The New Jersey Dental Association strongly recommends that dentists practicing in New Jersey voluntarily suspend nonessential or nonurgent dental care for the next 14 days.	State Society Page
New Mexico	NEW MEXICO	Dentists practicing in New Mexico voluntarily suspend non-essential or non-urgent dental care for the next 14 days (and then reevaluate at that time). Dentists must continue to be available to their patients as needed for emergency care and services. When treating emergencies please be extremely careful to follow all appropriate recommended infection control measures. Prioritize treatment of emergent and acute conditions when providing patient care.	State Society Page
New York	NEW YORK	NYSDA recommends that dentists practicing in NYS voluntarily suspend non-essential or non-urgent dental care for the next three weeks. At this time, it is recommended that dental offices provide only emergency dental care for patients. Elective and non-emergent services should be postponed for a minimum of three weeks. That policy shall be revisited at that time to accommodate further developments regarding COVID-19 and further actions/recommendations from government agencies.	State Society Page
North Carolina	NORTH CAROLINA	The NC State Board of Dental Examiners strongly recommends that dentists put in place the best possible infection control and sterilization protocols for both operatories and common waiting areas. In addition, dentists should consider postponing elective or non-urgent care for two weeks beginning 17 March 2020."	State Society Page
North Dakota	NORTH DAKOTA	The North Dakota Board of Dental Examiners (NDBODE) has a special meeting scheduled for 6:00pm CDT, March 18, 2020 specifically to discuss and provide comment on COVID-19. The NDDA has been invited to this meeting and will attend on behalf of our membership. We will provide immediate updates following the meeting regarding any positions or statements made on COVID-19 by NDBODE.	State Society Page

Ohio	OHIO	On March 18, the state issued an order stating at "Effective 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, 2020, all non-essential or elective surgeries and procedures that utilize PPE should not be conducted." It is the ODA's position that all dentists should follow the recommendations during this public health emergency.	State Society Page
Oklahoma	OKLAHOMA	The ODA Board of Trustees took a unanimous vote to recommend that dental offices in Oklahoma postpone any non-emergent care for three weeks. This is a very difficult decision, but it comes at a critical time and it is the responsibility to take leadership in this situation and have protocols in place to reduce the spread and impact of COVID-19 amongst the community.	State Society Page
Oregon	OREGON	ODA and the ADA call upon Oregon dentists to limit dental procedures to emergent care only for the next three weeks.	State Society Page
Pennsylvania	PENNSYLVANIA	In order for dentistry to do its part to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, ADA and PDA recommend dentists postpone elective procedures for the next three weeks.	State Society Page
Puerto Rico	PUERTO RICO	The Colegio, thanks to our public relations officer and Dr. Elba Diaz, wrote up a real good statement that was sent to every Dentist. Eventhough we didn't tell them to close, enough evidence was presented to them to make a personal decision on what to do. The recommendation is that the offices can open after the 30th of March.	State Society Page
Rhode Island	RHODE ISLAND		State Society Page
South Carolina	SOUTH CAROLINA	The SCDA Board of Governors met earlier today and after much deliberation have made the decision to recommend to dentists across the state to suspend all but urgent and emergency care in all dental offices for 14 days.	State Society Page
South Dakota	SOUTH DAKOTA	There is no documented community spread in SD. We have not recommended office closure, but many offices have begun to follow the ADA's recommendation to postpone elective procedures.	State Society Page
Tennessee	TENNESSEE	Therefore, the TDA Board has voted to support the ADA recommendation to suspend services typically provided to our patients and to limit dental services to emergency care only, for a minimum of 3 weeks. Emergency care would be pain, swelling, trauma, and abscess. (hygiene visits, cosmetic and elective operative procedures are considered non-essential)	State Society Page
Texas	TEXAS	TDA has been in contact with the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners and Governor Abbott's office. As of March 16, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. central, there are no federal or state directives mandating dental office closures .	State Society Page
Utah	UTAH	To ensure the safety of our patients, communities and dental team members, UDA recommends following the measures outlined by the ADA announcement on March 16th and the CDC recommendations (see links below) postponing elective treatment and concentrating on only urgent (or emergent) dental care. We will continue to seek guidance from the CDC, American Dental Association and Utah Department of Health in treating patients in need. Each dentist should make educated decisions on the appropriateness of treatment for each and every patient based on the nature of the oral care needs, medical history, and disease burden in the community.	State Society Page
Vermont	VERMONT	The VSDS strongly recommends that dentists practicing in Vermont voluntarily suspend non-essential or non-urgent dental care for the next 14 days (and then reevaluate at that time). Dentists must continue to be available to their patients as needed for emergency care and services. When treating emergencies please be extremely careful to follow all appropriate recommended infection control measures.	State Society Page
Virgin Islands	VIRGIN ISLANDS		
Virginia	VIRGINIA	For this reason, the VDA Board of Directors has been closely monitoring the spread of the Coronavirus and had an emergency meeting today where we took a unanimous vote to recommend that dental offices in Virginia postpone any non-emergent care for two weeks starting 3/17/2020. The VDA leadership took this very difficult decision seriously and proposes the following plan of action subsequent to the two-week hiatus.	State Society Page
Washington	WASHINGTON	As health care providers during a pandemic, we implore dentists to continue with the relief of pain and management of infection with their patients in order to keep patients out of hospitals and emergency departments. Please continue to adhere to CDC and ADA guidelines for infection prevention and PPE. The safety of our patients, staff, and dental colleagues is our highest priority.	State Society Page
West Virginia	WEST VIRGINIA		State Society Page
Wisconsin	WISCONSIN	WDA Supports ADA Recommendations for Dentists to Postpone Elective Procedures (3/16/2020). The WDA Board of Trustees has been closely monitoring the spread of COVID 19 and agrees with the guidance handed down today by the American Dental Association. In the interest of protecting public health, we urge members to comply with the ADA's recommendations to postpone elective procedures for three weeks.	State Society Page
Wyoming	WYOMING	Link provided to ADA site.	State Society Page