

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

Dear Valued IDHA Member,

On behalf of the IDHA, I am writing to share updated information. The changes and recommendations have been slow to evolve. We hope that you are all well, staying healthy and sane.

On March 30, 2020, Governor Holcomb's Executive Order (EO) 20-13 mandated that only emergency care be provided in the dental office. The next few EOs did not change anything for dentistry; however, they did extend the "Stay at Home" order repeatedly with the current lapse date of May 1, 2020.

The most recent Executive Order—20-22, signed yesterday, does specifically mention dentistry. The restrictions previously in place will be re-evaluated and may certainly be lifted and allow dental offices to resume routine and preventive care on Monday, April 27, 2020. The important piece of the EO is that proper PPE must be available. You can find the PPE guidelines on the CDC Website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/using-ppe.html>.

The two new paragraphs are below and are found on page 5 of the EO. [Click here](#) for the entire (EO) 20-22.

As long as sufficient personal protective equipment (PPE), staff and other supplies are available so as not to detract from what is necessary and appropriate to properly care for and treat patients who have or may have COVID-19, hospitals should conduct clinically indicated procedures meant to diagnose, screen and treat medical conditions that have the potential for short-term or long-term morbidity and/or mortality. These include, but are not limited to, cardiac, vascular, neurologic, cancer, gastrointestinal and respiratory procedures, as well as those procedures meant to reduce significant pain or symptoms making quality of life unacceptable.

Further, in connection with health care providers, whether medical, dental or other, and health care facilities, whether hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, **dental facilities**, plastic surgery centers, dermatology offices, abortion clinics, or veterinary practices, any current restrictions involving their medical procedures that have been imposed by an Executive Order will be re-evaluated for possible modifications, as warranted by the circumstances, that would allow for them to resume commencing as of 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, April 26, 2020. In addition, these restrictions on medical procedures will be re-evaluated every seven (7) days thereafter for any appropriate and timely modifications that could be implemented.

You can get information on new orders and changes at Indiana's coronavirus page: [coronavirus.in.gov](https://www.coronavirus.in.gov).

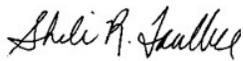
The IDHA was invited to a discussion with the IDA to develop a plan of action and guidance as to how best to safely provide dental care for our patients, when allowed to re-open. **IDHA supports this guidance as it is validated by CDC and OSHA guidance. When your office is open for providing dental care, please know that these recommendations by the IDA are paramount to the safety of patients and staff.** The guidance document that the IDA created can be found on their website at [idental.org](https://www.idental.org).

We are awaiting information that will be forthcoming from the ADHA Task Force on Return to Work. We will continue to monitor this closely and will update you rapidly. In the meantime, the IDHA recommends that each of us initiate a conversation with our employers about office preparedness and how to best mitigate the risks.

In an email to you, dated April 8, 2020, email links and sample language were provided to aid in contacting the agencies that make the recommendations and mandates. Please feel free to email Executive Director, Barb Owens at IDHA Central Office at indhacentraloff@gmail.com to have the email sent again if you can't find it and have the desire to voice your concerns to the powers that be. As you know, ADHA and IDHA cannot mandate or legislate. We are here to provide support and guidance through science and data. You can ask questions of ADHA by emailing to RDHCovidinfo@adha.net. Please visit adha.org/covid19 to find the most recent information dated 4/20/20.

Thank you for your support through membership, volunteerism and your dedication to dental hygiene. Please feel free to contact me or any of the IDHA Board of Directors. Stay positive, stay safe and well.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheli R. Taulbee". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sheli R. Taulbee, LDH
IDHA President