

## COVID-19 and Dental Care in British Columbia

The British Columbia Dental Association (BCDA) supports the actions taken by the Government of British Columbia and the College of Dental Surgeons of BC (CDSBC) regarding dental offices and individuals seeking dental care during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) response in British Columbia.

For the safety of patients and health care providers, CDSBC has **strongly recommended** that dental offices limit care to emergency and essential treatment - indefinitely. The BCDA supports this recommendation as one important step in containing COVID-19 exposure. **All dental offices have been advised to effectively close for non-essential dental care.** The BCDA also supports the order of the Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, for all attendees of the Pacific Dental Conference to self-isolate until Sunday, March 22. Information for patients has been posted on the [CDSBC website](#).

With the recommendation of the CDSBC, patients requiring essential or emergency care, will require an assessment of their dental needs as well as their risk related to COVID-19 exposure; and the implications of treatment for dental staff and the community. **All patients will first be assessed over the phone and the dentist will determine the appropriate course of action – which may include management over the phone, treatment in the dental office, or referral to an appropriate facility.**

For patients who have their current treatment suspended, delayed, or their routine dental care deferred, we ask for your patience. Your dental office will contact you to resume treatment when it is appropriate and safe to do so for everyone involved.

COVID-19 containment measures are escalating at a rapid pace. The BCDA encourages our members, patients, and public to stay up to date on public health directives and seek information directly from trusted sites such as [BCDA's COVID-19 Information](#), the [CDSBC COVID-19 news site](#) and the [BC Government's COVID-19 update site](#). We ask British Columbians to act in accordance with all mandated and voluntary measures to keep yourself, your families, friends and community safe.

As the voice of dentistry in BC, BCDA is dedicated to serving the interests of its members and promoting oral health for all British Columbians.