

## IPC GUIDELINES RELATED TO COVID-19 MANAGEMENT

APRIL 23, 2020

In direct consultation with CEO of Shared Health MB, Chief Medical Officer of Shared Health MB and Chief Nursing Officer of Shared Health MB, and following the Directive by Dr. Brent Roussin, Chief Provincial Public Health Officer;

The Manitoba Dental Association is strongly recommending that all non-essential and elective dental services be suspended until further notice. Only Emergency treatment should continue.

Due to the fluid nature of the COVID-19 pandemic dental services protocols, including this one, may change. Please visit the MDA website frequently for resources and be sure to subscribe to the MDA EAlert system.

### Dental Office Safety and Operations:

- The Manitoba Dental Association (MDA) is strongly recommending that all non-essential and elective dental services be suspended until further notice. Only Emergency treatment should continue.
- **At this time, emergency treatment only includes treatment due to a significant infection, acute pain that cannot be managed pharmacologically, oro-facial trauma or prolonged bleeding all of which, as a result, require immediate care. The MDA strongly advises that the dentist exercise reasonable and prudent judgment for assessing risk in these circumstances.**
- Medical management through pharmacological modalities, where appropriate, is strongly recommended.
- This is a reminder to members to manage their emergency treatment for asymptomatic patients only as screened by the most recent Shared Health Screening Tool with appropriate PPE.  
<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>
- Pre-screening phone calls, online screening, and screening upon patient arrival should be carefully followed to ensure that only asymptomatic emergent patients are being considered to be seen in person.
- Any patient who is symptomatic, shows flu-like symptoms (as per the most recent Shared Health MB screening tool), or has come in contact with someone who has COVID-19, should stay home, and contact Health Links at (204) 788-8200 or toll-free 1-888-315-9257.

### What should my office do if we suspect a patient has COVID-19?

- Patients who fail the Shared Health MB Screening Tool, have influenza-like illness (ILI) symptoms or are known to have COVID-19 are not to be seen in community clinics. If emergency dental care is medically necessary for a patient who has, or is suspected of having COVID-19, dental treatment should be provided in a hospital or other facility that can treat the patient using the appropriate Airborne precautions. These patients should not be treated in a regular dental operatory.
- If patients report without notice or appointment and report any symptoms, patients should be asked to don a mask, use hand sanitizer and be dismissed.
- Patients should contact Health Links if they suspect they have COVID-19.

### How do I properly screen patients?

Screen patients before their dental appointment according to the most recent Shared Health MB Screening Tool found at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>

Any Patients who do not pass the screening tool for COVID-19 should not be considered to be seen in a community clinic until further notice. *For the protection of you, your staff, the patient and other patients, symptomatic patients should not be treated in a regular dental operatory.*

### For asymptomatic patients who pass the Shared Health MB Screening Tool and have an emergency what are the standard precautions to take?

- Dentists should manage the case over the telephone to assess the severity of the emergency. Consideration of in person management can be triaged and recommended after that contact.
- **Medical management through pharmacological modalities, where appropriate, is strongly recommended.**
- Re-screen patients using the most recent Shared Health Screening tool upon arrival.  
<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>
- COVID-19 is highly contagious and is transmitted via droplet. It is unknown at this time with certainty as to the length of viability of the virus outside the human body. Because of the nature of the infection, there is a higher risk of transmission of the virus when working in the oropharynx or oral cavity.
- Aerosol Generating Procedures (AGPs) present the biggest risk in dental procedures. Aerosols are generated with dental equipment such as high-speed handpieces, 3-in-1 air/water syringes, ultrasonic scalers among others. **It is strongly recommended to not perform AGPs whenever possible.**
- Ensure team members practice strict adherence to hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene.
- There are increasing number of COVID-19 cases in Canada that appear to be non-travel related, therefore associated with community spread.
- Pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic patients appear to be able to spread the virus.
- 14-day pre-operative patient self-isolation is recommended. If patient is symptom-free after 14 days of self-isolation there is a lower chance they will have the disease (see self-isolation below).
- Until more information is available, we are recommending the following for clinical staff:
  - Non-Aerosol Generating Treatment (non-AGP):
    - ASTM Level 3 mask or fitted N95 mask or equivalent, if available
    - Face Shield or protective eyewear with side shields.
    - Gloves.
  - Aerosol Generating Procedure(AGP):
    - Fitted N95 mask or equivalent
    - Face Shield and protective eyewear
    - Gloves, Fluid resistant gown, Booties, Bouffant/surgical cap
- Standard precautions are to be used for cleaning and disinfection strategies in the treatment area and in the reprocessing area. COVID-19 is an enveloped virus. MDA guidelines require use of label claims with mycobacteriocidal, broad spectrum virucidal, fungicidal and bactericidal disinfectant and a drug identification number (DIN). Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use and for contact time.
- Identify high touchpoint non-treatment areas such as the front desk, the waiting room and the washroom. Equip your office staff with the appropriate cleaning products to keep these high touchpoint areas clean, including countertops, door handles and transaction pads at the front desk.
- For patients and escorts entering the office, provide alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) (60-90%), ASTM Level 1 masks, provide tissues and no-touch receptacles in which to throw away used tissues.
- Encourage appropriate social distancing and minimize waiting room use for patients or their escorts.
- Have patients wait in their cars instead of the waiting areas to prevent inadvertent spread of the virus. Call the patient when the operatory is ready for treatment. Escort patients directly to the operatory when possible.
- Limit access to waiting room use. Remove all magazines/toys etc. from waiting area to prevent contamination.
- One patient at a time in treatment room whenever possible, minimize visitors.
- Place COVID-19 awareness posters up in high visibility areas, such as the front entrance and at the reception desk. Such resources are available at Shared Health MB.
- Dental Health Care Providers must limit chair time as much as possible.

- When exiting, provide the patient ABHR (70-90%) and don and ASTM Level 1 mask.

### • What is Self-isolation?

To self-isolate means that in addition to self-monitoring, you should stay home and keep away from other people. This means not attending activities or gatherings outside of the home, including work, school, university, health care and long-term care facilities, faith-based facilities (e.g., churches, mosques and synagogues), grocery stores, restaurants and shopping malls.

<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-pre-op-patient-information.pdf>

### Shared Health MB Resources on Self Isolation and Self-Monitoring

Self-isolation means avoiding situations where you could infect other people. This can help prevent the spread of infections. DO NOT attend activities or gatherings where you may come in close contact with other people. This includes work, school and university, public transport (plane/bus/taxi/carpool), health-care facilities, faith-based facilities (church), grocery stores or restaurants, shopping malls, sporting events, concerts and birthday parties.

<https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-pre-op-patient-information.pdf>

You should limit contact with people other than family members who live in your household. If you are in a home where other people have not been exposed, minimize close contact with the other members of your household by avoiding situations where you may have close contact. Ask friends to drop off groceries and supplies. You can also use a delivery or pick-up service.

You have been asked to self-isolate because you are scheduled to have dental treatment. You are therefore being asked to self-isolate and monitor for symptoms for up to 14 days.

### Why am I being asked to self-isolate?

Self-isolation is used to lower the chance of spreading an illness to other people. When you are exposed to an illness, there is the time between exposure and when you start to feel sick. This is called an incubation period. There is a small chance you can spread germs in the days before you feel sick. People at high-risk of having been exposed to the illness are also asked to self-isolate for this reason.

### Considerations when providing treatment after proper screening

- Avoid AGPs whenever possible
- Maintain a strong triage by telephone or other means
- Pre-procedural rinse known to be effective against COVID-19 such as 1-3% Hydrogen Peroxide for 30 seconds (Chlorhexidine is not suitable)
- Use of rubber dam isolation and high volume evacuation.
- Consider alternating operatory use to allow for time between patients for proper air exchange and decontamination.
- Spoon excavation of decay
- Possible Application of Silver Diamine Fluoride