



SASKATCHEWAN DENTAL HYGIENISTS' ASSOCIATION

COVID-19 Pandemic IPC Interim Protocol Effective May 4, 2020

All SDHA members are required to abide by this protocol when they return to practice.

Some oral health care facilities may choose to remain closed due to shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) or recent facility requirement changes. **If appropriate PPE is unavailable, dental hygiene services must not be performed.** SDHA registrants are expected to follow the most current guidance. Those who fail to abide by this directive may be considered to be in professional misconduct and will be subject to appropriate action by the SDHA.

Rationale for providing this interim protocol:

This protocol is a methodical approach to re-open dental hygiene in Saskatchewan slowly and responsibly. The SDHA will lift restrictions with consideration given to the risk of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) transmission in the oral health care facility. This protocol respects the safety and well-being of both clients and dental hygienists.

SDHA Objective:

- Best practice transition to resume dental hygiene services in coordination with the "Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan"
- Safety for clients, families, and communities
- Safety for dental hygienists, team members, and their families

SDHA members must:

- Ensure up-to-date IPC facility manual includes SDHA COVID-19 Pandemic IPC Interim Protocol
- Ensure appropriate PPE from a reputable supplier
- Continue to take measures as outlined by the Chief Medical Health Officer (CMHO) to promote physical distancing where possible, and where not, use appropriate PPE
- Continue to abide by [The Dental Disciplines Act](#), [SDHA Regulatory Bylaws](#), [SDHA Administrative Bylaws](#), [Infection Prevention and Control Standards](#), and all additional SDHA updates relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Risk:

COVID-19: The name of the infectious disease caused by a new coronavirus called COVID 19. Although COVID-19 is not thought to be an airborne disease, such as measles or tuberculosis, under certain circumstances the virus can be aerosolized into particles much smaller than respiratory droplets (< 5 µm), allowing them to remain suspended in the air longer, to travel farther, and to be inhaled by a person, thus acting like an airborne disease. Aerosol particles bearing COVID-19 can be generated during medical and dental procedures when a client's saliva is agitated by mechanical forces, such as an ultrasonic scaler, a slow-speed handpiece, or spray from an air-water syringe. Therefore, the risk of aerosol transmission can be reduced by avoiding their generation in the first place, by utilizing appropriate PPE, and implementing appropriate aerosol protective measures.

Risk Mitigating Factors:

- It is advised to determine your fitness to work on a daily basis. To do this, complete the [SHA's Health Care Workforce Screening Questionnaire](#) no more than two hours prior to entering the workplace daily and record results in a [logbook](#). The logbook should be kept by the SDHA member and will be made available to the SDHA or health authorities if necessary. Should a member answer 'YES' to any question in the screening tool, they should contact the HealthLine 811 for further instruction and inform their employer that they are unfit to work.
- Clients should be pre-screened by telephone using the [SHA's COVID-19 Patient Screening Tool](#)
- Have visible reminders for clients to maintain physical distancing, proper cough and respiratory etiquette, and hand hygiene.
- Assess temperature using a thermometer (<38°C) on each client prior to procedures
- Clients are to perform hand hygiene upon entry and exit of dental facility and operatory
- **A preprocedural mouth rinse of 1% hydrogen peroxide for 60 seconds** must be performed by the client and expectorated into the same dispensing cup prior to examination and procedures within the oral cavity
- Have specific days or early in the day times for vulnerable clients, for example older adults and those with underlying health conditions
- Schedule fewer appointment times
- Stagger hygiene appointment
- Permit one escort to accompany minors or clients who require special accommodations
 - o Escort should be pre-screened by telephone using the [SHA's COVID-19 Patient Screening Tool](#) and wear a face covering
- Perform enhanced cleaning of high-touch surfaces
- Remove non-essential supplies or products in operatories, including pictures or artwork

Non-Aerosol Generating Procedures (NAGP) are the only dental hygiene services permitted at this time.

The SDHA may permit resuming Aerosol Generating Procedures (AGP) when risk can be mitigated.

Acceptable for use/NAGP Dental Hygiene Procedures:

- Intraoral/extraoral cancer screening assessment
- Radiographs necessary for determining periodontal diagnosis (recommend extraoral radiographs to minimize risk)
- Periodontal assessment, including communicating periodontal diagnosis and treatment plan
- Communicate oral hygiene instruction only, no intraoral demonstrations
- Debridement (hand instrumentation only)
- Administration of local anesthetic, topical anesthetic, and non-injectable anesthetic
- Use saliva ejector
- Use High-Volume Evacuation (HVE)
- Preventive procedures such as the application of topical agents (fluoride, silver diamine fluoride, desensitizers, etc.)
- Dry teeth with cotton roll/pellet or gauze
- Flossing performed by operator
- Rinsing and expectorating into disposable cup OR rinsing with monoject syringe and saliva ejector/HVE

Unacceptable/DO NOT USE/AGP Dental Hygiene Procedures:

- Air-water syringe
- Ultrasonic/power instrumentation
- Air polishing
- Slow-speed handpiece
- Selective polishing/prophy
- Pit and fissure sealants

Appropriate PPE for NAGP:

- ASTM Level 2 or Level 3 mask;
- Eye protection: face shield with side protection (may be worn with safety glasses, safety goggles, or magnification loupes)
- Gloves;
- Long-sleeved disposable gown OR lab coat;
- Surgical cap/bonnet (optional)
- Mandatory routine precautions as per the SOHP Infection Prevention Control Standard for Oral Health Care Facilities (04-01 to 04-05)

PPE Donning

1. Perform initial hand hygiene
2. Inspect PPE before donning, ensure good condition and correct size
3. Don surgical gown/lab coat
4. Don surgical cap/bonnet (optional)
5. Perform hand hygiene
6. Don ASTM Level 2 or Level 3 mask
7. Don face shield/protective eyewear
8. Perform hand hygiene
9. Don gloves

PPE Doffing

1. Remove gloves
2. Perform hand hygiene
3. Don clean gloves
4. Doff face shield/protective eyewear
5. Doff surgical cap/bonnet if visibly soiled
6. Doff surgical gown/lab coat if visibly soiled
7. Remove gloves
- 8. Doff ASTM Level 2 or Level 3 mask using elastic only**
9. Perform hand hygiene

Follow mandatory routine precautions as per the SOHP Infection Prevention Control Standard for Oral Health Care Facilities (04-01 to 04-05)

**As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves,
the SDHA will inform registrants when the protocols change.**

Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan

“Beginning May 4, 2020, Re-Open Saskatchewan is a plan built on a methodical and phased-in approach to slowly and responsibly lift restrictions on businesses and services.

Flattening the curve and strengthening the system will remain priorities, as will our ability to manage the current COVID-19 pressures by building capacity in the coming weeks and months. Key elements will include increased testing and contact tracing, as well as the preparation of additional space and critical equipment.

Restrictions will be lifted in stages, with consideration given to socioeconomic factors and the risk of transmission. They will be implemented via public health orders and the timing will be dictated by evidence of transmission.

As restrictions are gradually lifted, the Government of Saskatchewan and its Chief Medical Health Officer, Dr. Saqib Shahab, will carefully monitor the daily number of reported cases and other important indicators. They will also monitor to ensure that:

- Transmission of the virus is controlled;
- The provincial health system has enough capacity to test, isolate and treat every case, as well as trace every contact;
- Outbreak risks are minimized in special settings, such as health care facilities;
- Preventive measures are established in place in workplaces, schools and other essential gathering places;
- The risks of importing the virus from outside the province can be managed; and
- Communities and businesses are

The following recommendations should remain in place through all five phases:

- Protective measures for vulnerable populations.
- Individuals should continue working from home if they can do so effectively.
- Physical distancing must be maintained, wherever possible.
- People must stay at home when they are sick.
- Vulnerable individuals, such as seniors and those with underlying health conditions, should continue to exercise caution and minimize high-risk exposures, such as public outings.
- Personal hygiene will continue to be a key prevention measure.
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection should take place in workplaces, public spaces and recreational facilities.
- Although the public health order regarding the size of gatherings does not apply to businesses and workplaces, they are expected to follow the recommended public health measures, including:
 - o physical distancing for staff and clients;
 - o regular cleaning and disinfection;
 - o frequent handwashing and sanitizing;
 - o use of PPE where available and appropriate; and
 - o keeping staff who demonstrate or report COVID-19 symptoms out of the workplace.”

COVID-19 Resources

Health Care Workforce Screening Questionnaire

The information collected by this questionnaire will be used and disclosed solely for the purposes of screening for fitness for work during the COVID-19 pandemic in accordance with the SHA's obligations to provide a safe work and clinical environment for all.

We require you to answer the questions below to assist the SHA in determining your fitness to work during COVID-19. You can also access a digital version of this tool at saskatchewan.ca/mvid-19 (click on these If assessment tool).

Ensure at all times you are following protocols for hand hygiene and also remember to decontaminate your keys, phone, computers, and other personal items.

We are not screening for seasonal or environmental allergies: related symptoms to these scenarios would not preclude you from work. The following questions are meant to capture new symptoms, or a worsening of long-standing symptoms.

Screening Questions

1. Do you have any of the following symptoms	YES	NO
Fever	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
New onset of (or worsening of chronic) cough	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Sore throat</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In the last 14 days have you:	YES	NO
2. been outside of Canada, including to the United States?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. had close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>YES to ANY of 1, 2 or 3 You will NOT be permitted to work at this time Contact your manager/supervisor If staff or a physician, contact the OHS Hotline at 1-833-233-4403, otherwise contact Healthline 811 Self-isolate until you receive further direction</p>		
In the last 14 days, have you:	YES	NO
4. travelled outside Saskatchewan but within Canada?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. had non-close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. attended a mass gathering > 10 {does not apply to a single household or congregational living situation}	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Do you work in Long Term Care or a Private Care Home?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>YES to ANY of 4, 5, 6 or 7 <u>You may still work</u> please proceed to temperature check You must also self-monitor</p>		
<p>NO to ALL questions: please proceed to temperature check</p>		

- If you have an approved travel exemption, you can answer no, but you will be required to show proof
- If you have received clearance to return to work from OHS following exposure, you can answer no

Consult the Term Definitions Handout for definitions of: close contact, non-close contact, confirmed case, probable case

NB: the clinical characteristics of COVID-19 are still being understood and these screening questions may change as new evidence emerges.

Temperature Screening Log

Area				Facility				
Date	Time	Scrnner	First Name	lastName	Department	Temp.UB.O	Comments	
<i>2020-04 -15</i>	<i>8:00</i>	<i>JohnDoe</i>	<i>Jone</i>	<i>Doe</i>	<i>Quality & Safety</i>	<i>38.3</i>	<i>JOfeftokbut hod temp, went home & wiN collOHS</i>	
	-							
	-							
	-							
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**COVID - 19 Screening Tool
Outpatient/SameDay Surgery/Direct Admission**

Date: _____ Time: _____

INITIAL [AU APPLICABLE BOXES]

In person Screen Telephone Screen

Part A	Symptom assessment. Ask patient if they have ANY of the following symptoms:		YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/> Sudden onset of NEW cough or CHANGE to existing cough? <input type="checkbox"/> Fever of 38°C or greater on arrival or by patient history? Note: <i>over age 65 and under age 5, fever may not be present</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat? <input type="checkbox"/> NEW onset shortness of breath and/or difficulty breathing? <input type="checkbox"/> Pediatric - sudden onset of any of the following: <input type="checkbox"/> Runny nose, cough, sneezing? <input type="checkbox"/> GI symptoms (under the age of 5)?	Exclude symptoms related to an underlying medical condition (e.g. SOB related to asthma) Describe: _____ ANY "yes" answers = "YES" ■ ■ AU "no" answers = "NO"		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part B	Within the past 14 days has the patient had ANY of the following:		YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/> Travel outside of Saskatchewan? Where: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Close (within 2 metres) or prolonged contact with confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 without proper PPE? <input type="checkbox"/> Attended a mass gathering over 10? <input type="checkbox"/> Instructed to self-isolate? Why if other than above: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Unable to provide history (altered LOC or communication barrier)?	ANY "yes" answers = "YES" ■ ■ All "no" answers = "NO"		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Part A	Part B	Action		ID
	NO	NO	Proceed with procedure.		
Patient Answer	NO	YES	Does not fit COVID-19 screening criteria	Postpone procedure - instruct they "self-isolate" and "self-monitor" at home for 14 days from return of travel or date of close contact Encourage they call 8-1-1 or visit the Government of Saskatchewan COVID-19 website for information and complete the Self-Assessment if they become symptomatic. If unable to postpone procedure - follow department process.	
	YES	NO		Postpone procedure. Instruct they "self-isolate". If patient has <u>not</u> had a COVID-19 swab, inform them the Off Site Testing Centre will contact them for an appointment and fax form to local Testing Centre. <input type="checkbox"/> Form faxed to local Testing Centre If unable to postpone procedure - follow department process.	
	YES	YES	Fits COVID-19 screening criteria		

COVID-19 nasopharyngeal swab: N/A Not sent Sent on (Date:)

Signature/Designation: _____

FAX TO RECEIVING UNIT OR OPERATING ROOM WITH CONSENT IF PATIENT FOR SURGERY