



COLLEGE OF  
DENTURISTS  
OF ONTARIO

# Message to Registered Denturists

## COVID-19

March 16, 2020

To All Registered Denturists;

The College of Denturists of Ontario acts to secure the public's right to access of safe, competent and ethical denturism care and service from the province's Registered Denturists.

The COVID-19 Pandemic is a rapidly evolving event. As a result, the advice and direction from provincial and federal health regulatory bodies (Public Health Ontario, the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario, the Minister of Health of Ontario, the Public Health Advisory of Canada, the federal Minister of Health) is evolving too. In conjunction with the provincial Denturism Associations, the College is working to provide Registered Denturists, their current and potential patients, and the public in general with timely updates to information that directly impacts the provision of, or access to, Denturism care and services.

The following measures have been instituted in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

**1. The CDO strongly recommends that all non-essential denturism care and service be suspended immediately.**

As with our regulatory oral health care partners, the RCDSO and the CDHO, the CDO is strongly recommending that all **non-essential denturism care and service be suspended immediately**. The decision about whether proposed care and service is essential will be a collaborative decision between the patient (or substitute decision maker) and the Registered Denturist. In determining whether a service is essential, a Registered Denturist and the patient will need to consider whether the risk associated with **not** proceeding with the procedure is greater than the risk of contracting COVID-19. This is a very important action since many Denturism patients fall into the most vulnerable patient groups who are more susceptible to infection with COVID-19 and experience the most profound COVID-19 related disease, including death.

The CDO will revisit this recommendation on April 6, 2020.

**2. Ongoing Information Access**

The CDO continues to provide support and current information to Registered Denturists. You may access this information on the College's website.

[Access the COVID-19 Public Health Advisory and updates here.](#)

The website information reflects the most current information received from the Ministry of Health, Public Health Ontario or Public Health Agency of Canada. The College will send broadcast emails alerting Registered Denturists to significant developments (such as the recommendation for the suspension of non-essential care).

You are also welcome to contact the College directly if you have any questions regarding this development. The Practice Advisory service continues to take calls and emails (416-925-6331 ext. 224 or by email at [jslabodkin@denturists-cdo.com](mailto:jslabodkin@denturists-cdo.com)). Please be mindful that College staff are working diligently to provide you with the information you may seek but our response time may be a little longer than usual because of the volume of requests for information. Your professional associations remain a resource for its members.

### 3. College Functions and Business Activities

#### Physical Office Closure

In order to reduce the likelihood of community transmission of COVID-19 and to protect the College's staff members, the CDO will be temporarily shifting most of its office functions to a virtual space as of March 17, 2020. We are unsure of the duration of this shift but will communicate developments to our stakeholders as they arise.

The College's technology infrastructure provides staff with the ability to provide services to the public, Registered Denturists, applicants, and Qualifying Examination candidates remotely. The College expects to be able to provide these services without significant disruptions. You may contact the College as you would normally, by telephone or email. The College office will not be open to the public (including Qualifying Examination candidates, applicants for Registration, or Registered Denturists).

#### College Meetings

The Council meeting scheduled for March 27, 2020 will be postponed. All other required Committee meetings will be via tele- or video conferences.

### 4. Quality Assurance

The Peer and Practice Program will be suspended until further notice. Registered Denturists may continue to earn CPD hours by a variety of means including College delivered webinars, the College on-line jurisprudence program and unstructured CPD activities. Registered Denturists should not feel compelled to attend live events in person in order to fulfill CE requirements.

### 5. Registration Renewal

In consideration of the impact that suspension of non-essential services will have on the financial position of some Registered Denturists, the period for Registration Renewal will be extended until May 29, 2020 without penalty. As this situation is rapidly changing, the College will entertain additional needs in this area as the situation develops. However, it is imperative that Registered Denturists maintain their Professional Liability Insurance.

I appreciate that this is an extremely challenging time for everyone and commit to keeping you informed of developments as they arise.

Best Regards,



Dr. Glenn Pettifer  
Registrar and CEO

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**Links to the following documents:**

[COVID-19 Public Health Advisory](#)

## Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact:

**Jennifer Slabodkin** at 416-925-6331 ext. 224 or [jslabodkin@denturists-cdo.com](mailto:jslabodkin@denturists-cdo.com)

**Roderick Tom-Ying** at 416-925-6331 ext. 227 or [rtom-ying@denturists-cdo.com](mailto:rtom-ying@denturists-cdo.com)

