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COVID-19 Guidelines Rescinded

COVID-19 Guidance No Longer in Effect

The CDO is rescinding its COVID-19 guidance effective immediately in lock step with the three other Oral Health Profession Regulators representing Dentists, Dental Hygienists, and Dental Technologists who will also be rescinding their respective COVID-19 guidelines.

As a result of many factors including increased immunity and high vaccination rates, the risk of COVID-19 has diminished to a level that the CDO no longer needs to be prescriptive in its COVID-19 guidance that specified the additional precautions required during the pandemic.

Registered Denturists will continue to rely on the guidance of public health authorities who maintain surveillance of the pandemic and other communicable diseases, the routine practices as published in CDO's <u>Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines</u>, and the use of their clinical knowledge and professional judgement in determining the appropriate level of controls required for safe Denturism practice.

What this means for Denturists:

- A Point of Care Risk Assessment, or <u>Personal Risk Assessment</u>, should continue to be undertaken before any procedure to determine the level of controls required to mitigate that risk e.g., determining appropriate selection of PPE for the task at hand.
- COVID-19 specific pre-screening is no longer mandated.
 - Routine screening of patients (active and passive) will continue in order to screen for any symptoms of illness prior to treatment.
 - Any previous patient records related to COVID-19 screenings should be retained for a period of 7 years as per <u>CDO's Record Keeping Standard of Practice</u> since the date of last entry.
- Physical barriers e.g., plexiglass shields are no longer mandated.

- Denturists are encouraged to maintain existing barriers and additional precautions where appropriate.
- Denturists are encouraged to maintain signage asking patients who are experiencing any symptoms/illnesses to reschedule their appointments.
- Denturists will continue to follow CDO's <u>Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines</u> that articulates the routine practices employed in the Denturism practice. They are best suited to determine whether additional precautions will be required.
- The CDO will continue to keep the COVID-19 guidelines published on its website should any Denturist wish to consult or reference the guidelines in situations where additional precautions are warranted.
- Denturists must continue to comply with COVID-19 specific guidance set out by provincial and national public health authorities including Public Health Ontario. The CDO will continue to articulate any relevant guidance as necessary.

Resource Links

- COVID-19 Guidelines: <u>Additional Precautions for Denturism Practice During the COVID-19</u>
 Pandemic
- Routine IPAC Guidelines: Infection Prevention and Control in the Practice of Denturism
- Record Keeping Standard of Practice

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact the practice advisory service of the College of Denturists of Ontario at practiceinquiries@denturists-cdo.com or by phone at: (416) 925-6331 ext 225.



