

URGENT Message to Licensed Denturists
Covid-19 – Mandate is Public Protection - March 27, 2020

The primary concern of the Denturist Society of Saskatchewan is that the public is being protected. That is our mandate and we take this role seriously. Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer made it clear in an [Order](#) on March 20, 2020 that extraordinary measures are being taken to flatten the curve of Covid-19, which was communicated in our communique on March 20, 2020, as well as in a follow-up clarification email on March 22, 2020:

Effective March 23, 2020, the closure of dental clinics (which under the [Dental Disciplines Act](#) includes Denturists, Dentists and all other oral health care providers) except for urgent procedures (i.e. dental emergency or non-elective procedure); there has been no end date provided in this regard. Thank you for your understanding in these very challenging times, please be aware that the Council of the Denturist Society of Saskatchewan is meeting again on April 2, 2020 wherein we will re-evaluate the situation at that time.

This Order **MUST BE COMPLIED WITH** or you could face arrest, a fine and/or a conduct hearing and discipline meeting (in accordance with our [Regulatory By-Laws](#)) if the Denturist Society of Saskatchewan knowingly becomes aware that you are unlawfully providing denture services thereby putting the public at risk, which could result in suspension or revocation of your license together with a fine. Our role is to conduct a fair and transparent investigation into every complaint and to impose serious consequences in the event that a Licensed Denturist has been found to have committed misconduct.

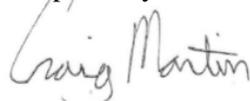
The Denturist Society of Saskatchewan stands behind this Order and our opinion that Denturist Services do not fall within the definition of "[Urgent Services](#)" as defined by the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan and verbally accepted by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health as follows:

"A dental emergency exists if professional judgement indicates that a person needs immediate attention to address oral trauma, pain, infection, bleeding or other associated medical complications. Emergency cases should be managed via telephone screening risk assessment by taking a verbal history of the patient's condition and providing appropriate pharmacotherapy."

Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer has made it clear that, during the COVID-19 crisis, health professionals who provide patient care should reduce their practice to urgent procedures only and the Denturist Society of Saskatchewan has therefore issued a **Mandatory Closure** of all Denture Clinics in response to this Order, wherein no services shall be provided to a patient directly and for further clarity no patient dentures shall enter your premises on or after March 23, 2020 until the Order has been lifted or rescinded. This does not mean that you are not allowed to be in your office to do cleaning, laboratory work or administrative work but it does mean that you **MUST** lock your door, have your open sign turned off and **MUST NOT SEE A PATIENT** or for clarity their dentures.

If you have any questions and/or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the office directly at admin@saskdenturists.com or any one of the Council members at: President, Josh Laewetz DD, at president@saskdenturists.com; Vice-President/Treasurer, Rod Sternig DD, at treasurer@saskdenturists.com; Secretary/Quality Assurance Committee Chair, Jared Samborski DD, at qualityassurance@saskdenturists.com; Registrar, Craig Martin DD, at registrar@saskdenturists.com; or Conduct Chair, Darryl Kuny DD, at conduct@saskdenturists.com. We can also be reached by telephone at 1-855-633-6875.

Respectfully Circulated,



Craig Martin, DD
Registrar

