

Message to Licensed Denturists
Covid-19 – Suspension of Non-Essential Denturism Care
As of March 18, 2020

As of March 16, 2020, the Denturist Society of Saskatchewan advised members, Saskatchewan Licensed Denturists, to continue practice with heightened Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines being maintained and additional recommendations from the Denturist Society of Saskatchewan being in place. However, with the situation and evolution of Covid-19 having progressed and based on information from Provincial/Federal Health and Denturist Regulatory Bodies the **Denturist Society of Saskatchewan, as of March 18, 2020, strongly recommends that all non-essential Denturism care and service be suspended immediately. The Denturist Society of Saskatchewan will revisit this recommendation on April 6, 2020 or earlier if the situation changes.**

The Denturist Society of Saskatchewan acts to secure the public's right to access safe, competent and ethical Denturism care and service from Saskatchewan's Licensed Denturists and as such please understand that the Denturist Society of Saskatchewan did not make this decision lightly, and it is being done out of an abundance of caution during this historic public health emergency. As health care professionals, we all have a role to play in "flattening the curve" in order to follow sound, scientific public health advice to help limit infections and slow the spread of the virus.

As with our regulatory oral health care counterparts across Canada, the Denturist Society of Saskatchewan is strongly recommending that all non-essential Denturism care and service be suspended immediately. The Denturist Society of Saskatchewan agrees that the following may be perceived as essential/emergent Denturism care and would urge members to use extreme caution, follow current Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines (if at any time these standards cannot be maintained, operations must cease) and follow the below recommendations if you choose to provide essential/emergent services to a patient:

Essential/Emergent Care

- Urgent Adjustments
- Catastrophic Repairs
- Procedures related to aftercare for immediate dentures i.e. tissue conditioners.

Denturists are to use their professional ethical judgement on what other situations could fall under essential/emergent care.

The decision about whether the proposed care and service is essential/emergent should be a collaborative decision between the patient (or substitute decision maker) and the Licensed Denturist by completing a "risk assessment" to consider whether the risk associated with not proceeding with the essential/emergent care 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 Denturist Society of Saskatchewan outlines below recommendations (as of March 18, 2020) in addition to the above risk assessment, and members maintaining the current Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines (if at any time these standards cannot be maintained, operations must cease) for those Licensed Denturists who choose to provide only essential/emergent care:

- Scheduling/seeing patients one at a time in your office to avoid contact with other patients (social distancing and other measures to limit spread):

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/public-health-measures-mitigate-covid-19.html>)

- Pre-screening protocol to be apart of the above risk assessment:
 - Did you travel or fly recently?
 - Do you have a new (worsening) cough?
 - Do you have a sore throat?
 - Do you have a fever (over 38 ° C)?
 - Are you having trouble breathing?

If the patient answers yes to any one of these questions then we would recommend not proceeding with essential/emergent care and would suggest that the patient consult their doctor or complete the Government of Saskatchewan’s Self Assessment Tool at:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-self-assessment>.

- Posting of a Warning Screening Sheet in your office (attached).
- Display posters in public view on universal measures to prevent infectious diseases (posters available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html>).
- Frequent hand washing;
- Wearing a mask (N95, if available);
- Wearing safety glasses with side protection;
- Wearing a lab coat;
- Disinfection of common areas (waiting room, toilet, reception counters and others), in between every patient;
- Disinfection of used operatory and all surfaces, in between each patient;
- Disinfect work surfaces and instruments used in the laboratory, in between each patient;
- Ensure availability and use of hand sanitizer in the waiting room and operatories for patient use.
- Refrain from performing house calls until the situation calms due to the unknown environment and the inability to control such.

There is ongoing information access on both the Provincial and Federal Government websites as follows and the Denturist Society of Saskatchewan will send out broadcast emails of significant developments:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus>

Your safety and the safety of the Saskatchewan public is our highest priority and we are working to ensure you are informed and prepared regarding Covid-19; the Denturist Society of Saskatchewan will revisit the above recommendation on or before April 6, 2020 dependant upon how the situation progresses and will inform members immediately.

The Denturist Society of Saskatchewan understands the burden that the above recommendation can put on an office with possible affects on your staff and would suggest that you contact your employment lawyer and consult the Government of Canada's Covid-19- Resources for Canadian Businesses website at:

<https://www.tradecommissioner.gc.ca/campaign-campagne/ressources-entreprises-COVID-19-business-resources.aspx?lang=en>

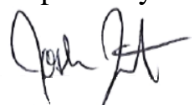
You may also have coverage for loss of income due to business interruption, which would be found under your Commercial General Liability policy for your clinics themselves, so we would suggest contacting your general liability insurer to inquire about your existing coverage; please note this coverage is not under your Errors and Omissions/Liability Coverage that you receive from the Denturist Society of Saskatchewan.

We thank you for your understanding and acceptance in the above regard, please look for a follow-up communique on April 6, 2020 or before if the situation changes.

The Denturist Society of Saskatchewan would like to again remind you that Spectrum Day on Saturday, April 25th, 2020 is hereby CANCELLED and the Spring 2020 Members Meeting on Saturday, April 25th, 2020 is hereby POSTPONED to a later date, which will be arranged and provided to members. We are hopeful that the Spring 2020 Members Meeting can be re-scheduled in person but if not, then other avenues will be investigated.

If you have any questions or require further information, 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,



Josh Laewetz, DD
President





If **ANY** of the following apply to you, please **phone** to reschedule your appointment **BEFORE ENTERING**:

- **Fever, cough, sneezing or difficulty breathing** (with or without pneumonia) **AND**
- **Travelled to a COVID-19 affected area within 14 days OR**
- **Close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 OR**
- **Close contact with someone who was ill and had travelled to a COVID-19 affected area within 14 days**

If you require **emergency** denture care, please inform us.

Thank You for Your Understanding and Cooperation.

Denture Practice Name
Telephone: ###-###-####