

Message to Registered Denturists
Covid-19, as of March 16, 2020
Updated March 17, 2020

As of March 16, 2020, 324 cases of Covid-19 (Coronavirus) have been confirmed in Canada, with 1 confirmed and 5 presumed cases in Saskatchewan. Covid-19 affects more severely people aged 70 and over as well as immunocompromised people and those with underlying medical conditions; keep informed by following the Government of Canada's designated website at:

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

Covid-19 can infect the nose, throat and lungs. This virus is most often spread by:

- respiratory droplets generated when an infected person coughs or sneezes
- through prolonged close personal contact with an infected person, such as direct contact or handshake
- by contact with infected surfaces, followed by hand contact with mouth, nose or eyes before washing hands

With that being said, it is hereby the current position of the Denturist Society of Saskatchewan to remind and urge our members, Saskatchewan Denturists, that the current Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines must be maintained; if at any time these standards cannot be maintained, operations must cease.

We urge members to be hyper vigilant during this time and understand that the position of the Denturist Society of Saskatchewan can change quickly as this is an evolving situation and to expect a communique by the end of the week in this regard with potential updates beforehand.

If you or a staff member have travelled internationally within the past 5 days then you should self-quarantine for the next 14 days in accordance with <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/latest-travel-health-advice.html>.

IMPORTANT Update : If you were in attendance at the 2020 Pacific Dental Conference then you must self-quarantine immediately until March 22, 2020 in accordance with the following (see paragraph 5 for specific PDC information (<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0086-000499>)). The SK Chief Medical Health Office has confirmed that this directive must be followed by attendees of the 2020 Pacific Dental Conference.

The Denturist Society of Saskatchewan outlines below current recommendations (as of March 16, 2020) in addition to members maintaining the current Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines:

- 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>);

- That a pre-screening protocol be put into place with each patient by asking the following questions, preferably when booking/confirming appointments or upon arrival at your office:

- 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 anyone of these questions, postpone the appointment and 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.

The Denturist Society of Saskatchewan would like to advise 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.

As health care providers, we can set a good example for our patients by doing our best to prevent the spread of Covid-19 by practicing the following:

- Practice proper cough and sneezing etiquette (into the bend of your elbow)
- Wash your hands often with soap and water; if soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Maintain safe food practices
- Call HealthLine at 811 if you are concerned about your symptoms or believe you may be at risk.

Your safety and safety of the Saskatchewan public is our highest priority and we are working to ensure you are informed and prepared regarding COVID-19. As stated previously, our position can change quickly as this is an evolving situation and to expect a communique by the end of the week in this regard with potential updates beforehand.

We thank you for your understanding and acceptance in the above regard. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the office directly at admin@saskdenturists.com or the Quality Assurance Committee Chair, Jared Samborski, at qualityassurance@saskdenturists.com.

Respectfully Circulated,



Josh Laewetz, DD
President

