

**BAHAMAS DENTAL COUNCIL
COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS**

TO: ALL LICENCED DENTAL PERSONNEL IN THE BAHAMAS.

**SUBJECT: MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE POST-COVID-19 PRACTICE OF DENTISTRY
WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS effective June 2020.**

Greetings Dental Colleagues:

The following are the post Covid-19 MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS for ALL dental facilities and personnel engaged in the treatment of dental patients.

**All of the existing pre-Covid-19 aseptic principles and practices are to remain in place.

The new additions are as follows:

PATIENT MATTERS:

Before entering the dental facility, patients should be prescreened during the confirmation appointment call. This is to minimize patient 'face time' contact, and maximize the use of tele-dentistry.

1. All patients entering a dental facility will enter with covered noses and mouths. This can be with a mask or cloth covering. These coverings shall remain in place all the way to the dental treatment area. After treatment, the coverings are to be placed again while in the treatment area, and remain in place until the patient exits the dental facility.
2. Adult patients should be encouraged to come to appointments unaccompanied and remain outside the dental facility until summoned to enter OR patients sitting in a facility's waiting room must remain fully masked, and maintain a six feet or more distance apart.
3. Patients entering a dental facility will be provided with hand sanitizing solution to sanitize their hands. This solution should be placed inside the facility, and be accessible immediately upon entering the facility.
4. Patients entering a dental facility should have (a) their health history "covid-19 updated", and (b) a body temperature recorded. If the patient's temperature exceeds 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit and remains the same after re-check, he/she should have their treatment deferred and then be referred to a healthcare provider for further assessment.

5. All patients should be asked to contact the dental facility should they develop any sign or symptom of respiratory illness within 2 weeks after their appointment.
6. In the event a patient contacts a treatment facility post-visit and reports any sign of respiratory disease, the matter is to be reported to the CMO/ MOH Surveillance Unit immediately by the attending dentist.
7. Any patient suspected of signs or symptoms of Covid-19 should be immediately referred to a physician for testing and evaluation.
(If it is determined that a Covid-19 positive patient was treated at a dental facility within 14 days preceding a positive test, that facility is required to contact the MOH for determination of corrective measures, which take into consideration the degree of exposure to each member of the dental team.)
8. Prior to treatment, all patients must rinse using a peroxidase oral rinse.

FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT MATTERS:

1. All contact surfaces within the dental facility including waiting rooms and treatment rooms are to be fully sanitized after each patient. Such sanitizing is to be accomplished with the current and recommended disinfectants and virucidal-germicidal agents available.
2. All dental instruments (including dental burs) are to be washed with soap and water, and then properly sterilized.
3. All critical instruments (high speed, low speed, ultrasonic) are to be properly sterilized after a single use.
4. All dental procedures requiring suction are to be executed using HVE (high volume evacuation). This includes the dental prophylaxis.
5. All facilities are required to operate using a HVE system.
6. All facilities are also encouraged to adopt a “clean air” policy. This may require the procurement of an air purifying system.

PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT(PPE)/STAFF PROTECTION/ DENTAL LABORATORY MATTERS

1. All dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, and supporting staff are required to wear appropriate attire to match their level of risk. These include procedure masks, n95 masks, procedure gowns, gloves, surgical head and foot coverings, goggles, and face shields.
2. A facility “temperature log” is recommended. Daily temperatures should be recorded for all doctors and staff.

3. Dental laboratory personnel are advised to practice social distancing, and wear masks within their facilities.
4. Dental prostheses and appliances are to be properly sterilized in a recommended virucidal-germicidal solution once received from a lab.
5. All used PPE such as masks, gowns, hair and foot coverings, gloves, and disposable face shields are to be properly disposed of in proper disposal containers. The same applies for sharps and their disposal.

***This document can/will be amended and updated as it becomes necessary.