



# PCPHA

PLUMAS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY



Growing Healthy Communities

**This guideline is to provide clarification for the Plumas County Dental providers on the guidelines issued by California Department of Public Health on May 7, 2020.**

Dental services are included in the businesses that are scheduled for phase two of the re-opening plan. All the businesses that are opening under the phase two variance must have ample Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to proceed, and must establish safe practice processes. Dental settings are unique in the characteristics that require additional infection control considerations. We are encouraging our dental providers to schedule for the clinically necessary dental procedures at this time and to postpone elective procedures, surgeries, and non-urgent dental visits to a later time. Each Dental facility should use a “case by case” strategy when assessing the needs of their patients. Dental facilities should proactively communicate to staff and patients the need to stay home if they are sick, and should know the steps to take if a Covid-19 patient enters their facility.

### **Clinically Necessary Dental Care Guidelines**

- Plan on screening patients for COVID symptoms when you make appointments. Refer to [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)
- Only schedule non-COVID patients for dental treatment
- Refer symptomatic patients to the medical providers for testing
- Establish a screening process for COVID symptoms before the patients enter your office space  
*(Meet patients in the parking lot and check their temperature)*
- Ask patients to bring their personal face covering
- Have a plan in place specific for your office space to minimize physical contact  
*(One-way flow, scheduling apart)*
- Prepare to have PPE supplies for at least two weeks with a plan to obtain additional as needed\*
- Prioritize Scheduling *(Previously deferred dental treatment, previously scheduled urgent procedures, and patients who are likely to develop dental emergencies).*
- Incorporate preventative services with above procedures whenever possible.  
*(Fluoride, sealants, hand scaling)*
- Utilize non-aerosol procedures whenever possible
- If aerosol-generating procedures are necessary, utilize aerosol management tools including high speed evacuation techniques. For technical questions and procedure specific questions refer to [ADA.org](https://www.ada.org) guidelines
- Orthodontic procedures and non-aerosolized procedures may be performed.
- For fit and seal testing N95 masks, please refer to [ADA.org](https://www.ada.org)

For Plumas-specific COVID guidance, information, and phases of reopening: [plumascounty.us](http://plumascounty.us)

**\*A limited supply of FREE (plus shipping) PPE is available to licensed dentists within California at [tdsc.com](http://tdsc.com).**

**Create an account and upload your license to place an order.**

**Additional Resources that may help you obtain sufficient PPE: [Shapeeverydaymedical.com](http://shapeeverydaymedical.com), [lakeindustries.com](http://lakeindustries.com).**

Thank you,

Mark Satterfield MD, Plumas County Public Health Officer

Dated: 5/21/2020