



## CDSS Alert – COVID-19 Pandemic: IPC Interim Protocol Update

**NEW: Phase 6 Update – February 25, 2022**

### Rationale:

The province has eliminated the use of vaccine passports (February 14, 2022) and public indoor masking requirement (March 1, 2022). However, dental clinics are still expected to have COVID mitigation strategies to minimize COVID exposure especially for unvaccinated and under-vaccinated patients and team members.

All CDSS members are required to review this CDSS alert and be aware of its recommendations.

**NEW: The current phase 6 update (July 2, 2021) and Phase 6 FAQ (July 15, 2021) are still in place, with the following changes:**

1. **NEW:** Temperature screening is **now optional**. CDSS members can use their professional judgement to use it or not.
2. **NEW:** Indoor masking outside of clinical spaces is **now optional**. CDSS members should use their professional judgement on deciding to maintain this practice or not.
3. **NEW:** The following Yes or No COVID screening questions should be used:

In the last 48 hours, have you had any of the following symptoms (If yes, patient should be rebooked and told to get a COVID test):

- a. Fever (temperature  $\geq 38.0$  Celsius)
- b. New or worsening respiratory symptoms NOT related to seasonal or environmental allergies i.e., cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat or runny nose.
- c. New onset of atypical symptoms including: chills, aches and pains, headache, loss of sense of smell or taste, diarrhea, nausea/vomiting, loss of appetite, fatigue or weakness.



**CDSS objective:**

1. Safe dental care provision in coordination with the Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan.
2. Safety for patients, families and communities.
3. Safety for dental providers, staff and their families.

**CDSS members must:**

1. Continue to operate under all current CDSS Standards, Bylaws and Alerts relating the most current COVID-19 mitigation strategies and recommendation.
2. Utilize professional judgement in collaboration with their dental teams to provide the highest level of PPE and maintain the safest facility requirements.
3. Understand that AGPs are still risky procedures.
4. Continue COVID patient and staff screening protocols.
5. Regularly update their IPC facility manual with the most current CDSS COVID-19 mitigation strategies and to inform, educate and train all clinical and non-clinical staff.
6. Ensure adequate supply of PPE based on the current recommendations for the work being undertaken.
7. Maintain physical distancing between staff and patients in the dental clinical setting.
8. Maintain cleaning and disinfection of clinical settings as outlined in previous Alerts.
9. Maintain handwashing and sanitizing protocols.
10. Use clinical judgement and weigh the risks of every situation to minimize COVID transmission even in an environment when most staff and patients are immunized. COVID transmission and infection is still possible in and between fully immunized individuals.