

Alert: Provision of Dental Emergency Services in Saskatchewan

Update on Level 2 - March 25, 2020

- All CDSS members **must** operate under the current **CDSS Standards and Alerts** relating to this COVID-19 pandemic.
- The CDSS is in constant contact with key Government agencies in the Health Ministry, the SHA and the hospital dental practitioner group to establish an achievable strategy for triage of emergencies that **focus on keeping dental emergencies out of hospital emergency rooms**.
- Based on this consultation and collaboration the current strategy is as follows:
 - **After reviewing this document please complete [this form](#)**. This will indicate the level of emergency dental services you are capable of providing. **Those that have completed this form before are asked to complete this again considering the new information below.**
 - **Level 1 - All CDSS members** must maintain contact with their patients and manage emergencies using Pharmacotherapeutics. If patients cannot be managed at this Level 1, they must be referred to Level 2 providers.
 - **Level 2** - The CDSS encourages members to complete the above link to indicate their ability to provide emergencies while **maintaining proper PPE and IPC protocols** in their own dental office. Current best practice:
 - A. **Asymptomatic patient & non-aerosol generating procedures: Current SOHP IPC standards apply and proper PPE. This includes proper PPE such as gloves, surgical masks, protective eyewear.**
 - B. **Asymptomatic patient & aerosol generating procedures: Current SOHP IPC standards and proper PPE including properly fitting N95 masks, protective clothing, gloves, protective eyewear or face shield. Protective clothing includes fluid-resistant gowns and lab-coats.**
- **SOHP IPC Standard- Page 23 IPC-03-03 - Masks Section:**
 - To prevent inhalation of small particles that may contain airborne infectious agents such as Mycobacterium tuberculosis, a particulate-filter respirator (N95, N99 or N100) should be worn. These respirators will filter 1-µm particles in the unloaded state with a filter efficiency of greater than 95% (filter leakage <5%), given flow rates of <50 L/min, which is an approximate maximum airflow rate during breathing. Only respirators specifically designed for this purpose should be used. When respiratory infection precautions are necessary, these respirators should be used in the context of a complete respiratory protection program. Such a program should include training and fit-testing of the respirator to ensure an adequate seal between the edges of the respirator and the SOHCP face. Administrative and clerical staff exposed to the general public must be included in the training and fit testing.
 - **Level 3** - The SHA in conjunction with CDSS is attempting to establish dental clinics in 2-4 locations across the province that will be able to provide dental care normally only provided in hospitals. This is a contingency plan at the request of the SHA.
 - **Level 4** - The SHA wishes to minimize the provision of dental emergency services possible in the hospital setting. If dental emergencies present to hospitals, they will be triaged accordingly by our medical colleagues as needed.

Further communications will be provided to all CDSS members.