

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 and COVID-19

Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) transmission continues to be a community and global problem requiring implementation of public health initiatives and impacting oral health care delivery. The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) recognizes the importance of vaccinations and infection control policies, procedures, and practices in health care settings to prevent disease transmission and strongly encourages dentists to be up to date with all recommended vaccines and boosters against coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Safety of the patient and dental team is an essential component of oral health care. Occupational risk of COVID-19 infection, the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, for dental professionals has been reported to be controlled by infection control procedures.¹ Practitioners should use a combination of standard, contact, and droplet precautions² when performing patient care. The AAPD encourages dentists to follow current research and best practices in infection control and to consult state and local regulatory agencies for recommendations to minimize risk of COVID-19.

Because the issues and understanding of SARS-CoV-2 continue to evolve, the AAPD offers two online resource hubs:

- **COVID-19 Update/Coronavirus Update** (<https://www.aapd.org/about/about-aapd/news-room/COVID-19/>) provides links to resources that promote safety and best practices in pediatric oral health care and maintenance of a dental home relative to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Beyond Re-emergence Pediatric Dentistry Practice Checklist** (<https://www.aapd.org/about/about-aapd/news-room/aapd-practice-checklist-resources/>) guides practices during the pandemic.

The following links are considered primary sources of information regarding SARS CoV-2/COVID-19:

COVID-19: Status Updates and Information Pages

- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Coronavirus COVID-19** is the CDC's COVID-19 resource hub featuring individual pages on a wide range of pandemic topics (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>).
- **Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center** provides daily updates, cases, and trends by United States counties and globally, and more (<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/>).
- **American Dental Association COVID-19 Information** is a curated website of the latest COVID-19 guidance including government policy, emerging science, and patient resources (<https://www.ada.org/resources/coronavirus>).
- **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Coronavirus Disease 2019** provides links to clinical and technical guidance on health care practice during the COVID-19 pandemic (<https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/Emergency/EPRO/Current-Emergencies/Current-Emergencies-page>).
- **Food and Drug Administration Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)** covers topics such as emergency authorization of medical products, vaccines, and personal protective equipment (<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/counterterrorism-and-emerging-threats/coronavirus-disease-2019-COVID-19>).
- **Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR): COVID-19 Reports** is dedicated to SARS-CoV-2 in the MMWR (https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/Novel_Coronavirus_Reports.html).
- **American Academy of Pediatrics Critical Updates on COVID-19** offers practice advice, research, and news related to COVID-19 and children's health (<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-COVID-19-infections/>).
- **World Health Organization** provides an international perspective on **Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic** on a global scale (<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>).

COVID-19: Vaccines, Infection Control Tools, and Readings

- **CDC Vaccines and Immunizations: COVID-19 Vaccination Clinical & Professional Resources** (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html>).
- **CDC Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the COVID-19 Pandemic** (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>).
- **Occupational Safety and Health Administration COVID-19 Control and Prevention: Dentistry Workers and Employers** (<https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/control-prevention/dentistry>) and **Protecting Workers: Guidance on Mitigating and Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in the Workplace** (<https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/safework>).
- **Environmental Protection Agency List N Tool: COVID-19 Disinfectants** (<https://cfpub.epa.gov/wizards/disinfectants/>).
- **Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention/CareQuest Institute Best Practices for Infection Control in Dental Clinics During the COVID-19 Pandemic** (<https://www.carequest.org/system/files/CareQuest-Institute-OSAP-best-practices-for-infection-control-in-dental-clinics-during-the-covid-19-pandemic.pdf>).
- **Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation. Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Anesthesia Resource Center** (<https://www.apsf.org/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-resource-center/>).
- **CDC Scientific Brief: SARS-CoV-2 Transmission** (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/scientific-brief-sars-cov-2.html>) and **Testing Overview** (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/testing-overview.html>).
- **Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme Rapid Review of Aerosol Generating Procedures in Dentistry** (<https://www.sdcep.org.uk/published-guidance/COVID-19-practice-recovery/rapid-review-of-agps/>).

References

1. Nardone, M, Cordone, A, Petti, S. Occupational COVID-19 risk to dental staff working in a public dental unit in the outbreak epicenter. *Oral Dis* 2020;00:1-13. Available at: "<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/odi.13632>". Accessed August 21, 2022.
2. Harte JA. Standard and transmission-based precautions in dentistry. *J Am Dent Assoc* 2010;141(5):572-81. Available at: "[https://jada.ada.org/article/S0002-8177\(14\)61533-6/fulltext](https://jada.ada.org/article/S0002-8177(14)61533-6/fulltext)". Accessed August 21, 2022.