

**COVID-19 UPDATE: N95 Shortage at ND DoH, ND DoH Free N95 Decontamination Site, CDC Supports ADA Guidance, NDDA FAQs on OSHA Guidance,**

**In this update we will be covering the following items which will be discussed at length below:**

1. (N95 Shortage Update) NDDA Member Emergency PPE Contact through State of North Dakota
2. Free N95 Decontamination(and Shipping) through State of North Dakota at Bismarck Site
3. CDC Director Testifies Agency Supports ADA Guidance
4. NDDA FAQs on OSHA Guidance for Dentistry Workers and Employers

**If you missed our most recent “Reopening Offices Resources Update” today and would like to see it, please click [here](#).**

## **(N95 Shortage Update) NDDA Member Emergency PPE Contact through State of North Dakota**

**NEW UPDATE** – The NDDA has been in constant contact and communication with the ND HAN for member dentists access to the state cache of emergency PPE. The North Dakota Department of Health Logistics within the Unified Command for the Covid-19 response have been working with us to get PPE supplies to the dentists in the state. **At this time, current state inventory levels of N95 masks are too low for distribution to all dental offices.** We are working on solutions including **free access(including shipping) for all member dentists to the decontamination site located in Bismarck.** At this time, dental offices are still able to request level 3 masks and all other PPE for all employees providing direct patient care. The only limitation currently, due to low inventory levels, is with N95 masks. **Dental Offices please answer and respond to requests from the North Dakota State Emergency Operations Center on clinical dental staffing levels to ensure proper and fair distribution of PPE to member offices across the state.**

**NDDA member dentists should call 701-328-0707, the NDDoH Operation Center, for assistance coordinating with regional LPH PPE fit testing sites.** NDDA member dentists are able, as essential health care providers, to order PPE supplies, ~~to include N95 respirators,~~ from the ND state medical cache for dental emergency services only. You will need to sign up to order supplies at <http://hanassets.nd.gov/>. **Please review the North Dakota State Dental PPE Ordering document in its entirety prior to ordering.**

\*One thing to remember when receiving orders from the state medical cache is the expectation that once supply chains return to normal, **the supplies taken out of the medical cache are expected to be replaced.**

## **Free N95 Decontamination(and Shipping) through State of North Dakota at Bismarck Site**

The North Dakota Department of Health has been awarded a Battelle CCDS Critical Care Decontamination System to help address the current shortage of N95 respirators across the United States. **The Battelle CCDS will provide shipping and N95 decontamination at no charge** to healthcare organizations, EMS agencies, public health, public safety (law enforcement and fire departments), etc. The NDDA has lobbied and **dentists have been included in the qualified entities allowed to utilize this site free** of charge for both the decontamination and shipping. The site has been set up in Bismarck, ND and shipping to and from the Battelle site will also be at no charge. **To sign up for the program and to get more information on the Battelle CCDS,** please visit [www.battelle.org/decon](http://www.battelle.org/decon). This decontamination process has been issued an EUA by the U.S. FDA and has passed evaluation by the 3M Personal Safety Division.

**For questions on the Battelle CCDS Program or to participate please contact** Nicole Brunelle at [nbrunelle@nd.gov](mailto:nbrunelle@nd.gov) or Joe Vetter at [joevetter@nd.gov](mailto:joevetter@nd.gov).

Additionally, the ND Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation has gathered information regarding the use of steam to decontaminate N95s. **This contingency planning for critical N95 mask shortage situations utilizes steam decontamination of N95 masks and could be of value in dire situations if PPE supply shortages cannot be immediately addressed.** The ND DOCR contingency plan is linked [here](#) and is also attached to this email.

### **ADA Urges CDC To Update Guidance For Dental Practices, CDC Director Testifies Agency Supports ADA Guidance**

ADA President Chad P. Gehani and Executive Director Kathleen T. O’Loughlin sent a May 6 letter to CDC Director Robert R. Redfield, M.D., **asking the CDC “to update its guidance to address how to protect dental personnel returning to work during the deceleration phase of COVID-19.** Such guidance will give states the confidence to permit the safe reopening of dental offices and enable patients to access essential dental care.” During the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions’ May 12 hearing, COVID-19: Safely Getting Back to Work and Back to School, **Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) singled out dentists and their efforts in reopening their practices safely. “If dentists are following ADA guidelines on infection protocols, strict protection measures and closely examining and seeing decline of COVID-19 patients in their county, are these reasonable factors to consider for re-opening dental practices?”** Sen. Collins asked. “Dental health is so important.” **Dr. Redfield “testified that the agency is working closely with the ADA and dentists” and that he “would not disagree” with ADA guidance.** Dr. Redfield continued “We are in the process of updating CDC guidelines, which will include dental practice guidelines.”

### **NDDA FAQs on OSHA Guidance for Dentistry Workers and Employers**

The NDDA has had many inquiries about OSHA as it relates to dentistry workers. The attached document addresses many of the **frequently asked questions on Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) Guidance for Dentistry Workers and Employers.** The document covers many topics including but not limited to: enforcement, regulations vs recommendations vs guidance, N95 requirements and practice requirements. The NDDA FAQs on OSHA Guidance for Dentistry Workers and Employers is posted online, please click [here](#).