

April 7, 2020

Office of the Governor, State of North Dakota
The Honorable Doug Burgum
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck ND, 58505-001

Dear Governor Burgum:

On behalf of the North Dakota Dental Association and our Board of Trustees, we wish to send our most sincere thanks to you and all those you lead for your leadership through the COVID-19 pandemic. Your work, the work of your team, and of all those on the frontlines fighting this pandemic has, without a doubt, saved lives and will continue to save lives of North Dakotans. Following your leadership, our Board of Trustees has taken several steps to help ensure the health and well-being of North Dakotans.

We continue to recommend that dentists cancel non-emergent work but be readily available for their patients with dental emergencies in an effort to avoid an unnecessary burden of patients with dental pain going to ERs or walk-in clinics. Dentists across the state have been advised to use sound judgement and continue to maintain the highest levels of sterilization and disinfection in treating patients with emergencies in hopes this will flatten the curve and slow the spread of COVID-19. By eliminating non-emergent dental appointments, it greatly reduces the traffic in dental offices making for fewer points of contact and potential community spread of COVID-19. This allows for fewer PPE supplies to be used, thus freeing up those supplies for wherever they may be needed the most. The NDDA has given dentists the chance to inventory PPE and donate any extra to the areas in most need. There are dental offices across the state that will be collecting PPE in an effort of making a large donation that can be distributed appropriately.

Dentists across the state continue to do what they feel is best for North Dakota, take care of North Dakota. This is a group of highly trained healthcare professionals who have been willing and ready to follow recommendations put forth on how to best take care of our great state. We will continue to advise them in a fashion that allows them to be advocates for North Dakota and this great state's well-being. We will continue staying up to date on the latest recommendations from the CDC, American Dental Association (ADA), and from you. We are tasked with using that information to appropriately advise dentists on how to proceed, a task that pales in comparison to the duties of you and your team. Again, thank you for all you have done for North Dakota. Like you have said many times, we are in this together. If there is anything the NDDA can do to help, do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Respectfully,

NDDA Board of Trustees