

Subject: COVID-19 UPDATE: NDDA Member Emergency PPE(Including N95s) Access through State of North Dakota

NDDA Members:

As you know, health care is currently under considerable stress dealing with the Covid-19 crisis and our dental practices are certainly no exception. We hope all of you are managing to continue to provide any urgent care your patients may need and making the best decisions you can to ready your practice for a return to usual operations.

As you also may know, the NDDA has established a donated personal protective equipment (PPE) program to help our medical providers and first responders if any dental offices have surplus PPE during this current suspension of elective procedures (see attached info). As part of this discussion, we also know that as we provide emergency care to patients, there is specifically increasing concern that offices have the necessary N95 masks to protect their teams and patients. Given the difficulty locating these masks, we have been working with the State Health Department to access their state PPE resources for those practices that may have need for N95 masks as well as other PPE. **The following is the message being sent out from the State Department of Health via the NDDA.**

North Dakota Dentists:

*The North Dakota State Department of Health is announcing that dentists are now 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/>. When ordering, **you will need to identify your office's anticipated need for a 2-week period** and will also need to **indicate the number of employees who are providing direct care for emergency services** on the **Customer Note** section at the very end of the online order form. All information is required.*

Additional recommendations:

- N95 respirators ideally should not be used if individuals are not fit tested. Poor fitting will be like not wearing one. (https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/topics/respirators/disp_part/respsource3fittest.html)*
- Many times, it may be better to wear a surgical mask with face shield. If not face shields (that can be disinfected between patients) eye goggles can be used.*
- Patients need to be screened before doing procedures so it is known if they are low or high risk.*

PPE that is available from the state medical cache is available on <http://hanassets.nd.gov/>. Look in the COVID tile to order common PPE items.

***Again, please remember**, it is very important that the order be for a 2-week period only and you must fill in the number of employees who are providing direct care in the customer note section at the very end of the ordering process (Under the Order review section under Total).*

Thank you and feel free to contact the State Health Department Operations Center at 701-328-0707 and the Department of Health website at <https://www.health.nd.gov/> for more information.

Please contact me or our PPE Chair Dr. Brent Holman at blholman@gmail.com if you have any additional questions. Thanks for your help!