

## **March 27, 2020 - COVID-19 UPDATE: Update from NDDA President, Dr. Brad Anderson**

I have a couple of topics I would like to touch on in this update including:

- 1) Supplies/PPE
- 2) ND Board of Dental Examiners contact info
- 3) Chamber of Commerce updates
- 4) Continue to review ADA procedure guidelines
- 5) Federal loan update (tentative)

We have been having a number of good conversations with Patterson and Henry Schein dental representatives regarding obtaining necessary supplies. If there are dental supplies such as masks, gowns, and etc., it would be worth contacting your local dental supply representative to see if they can help you with your dental supply needs. I was told by my representatives, not to rely on the website for updated/current information, they have a better pulse on supply inventory. I was told there are some items they are currently unable to obtain but would gladly help with any item they can obtain. They have also been offering a number of high-quality CE courses regarding our current situation.

For any questions regarding state regulatory issues, continuing education, or similar topics I would recommend contacting the ND Board of Dental Examiners directly. They are in a better position to answer your questions than we are. You can reach them by emailing them at [info@nddentalboard.org](mailto:info@nddentalboard.org).

The Greater ND Chamber of Commerce is currently holding weekly update calls on Thursday mornings. I sat in on yesterday's call and it had a lot of useful information regarding small business loans, unemployment, and insurance issues. I would encourage you to sign up. Details can be found on their website <https://www.ndchamber.com/events/details/covid-19-nd-business-briefing-emergency-business-financing-125>. This is the link to this Thursday's meeting but it should be easy to find next week's link on their website.

The ADA has put out guidelines for procedure categories on their Covid19 virus page. They break down urgent, emergent, and routine care. The last CDC guidelines I saw gives us quite a bit of description of what to treat in the urgent category. In the end, with the use of the guidelines from the ADA, CDC & the NDBODE & each of your own clinical judgement, these will all determine what needs to be treated as emergent/urgent in your office in the next 1-2 months. This is a conversation you need to have with your staff and like so many things in dentistry this will probably vary from office to office. The ADA guidelines are on their page: [https://success.ada.org/en/practice-management/patients/infectious-diseases-2019-novel-coronavirus?utm\\_source=adaorg&utm\\_medium=VanityURL](https://success.ada.org/en/practice-management/patients/infectious-diseases-2019-novel-coronavirus?utm_source=adaorg&utm_medium=VanityURL).

The ADA will also have information regarding any federal bills passed and how it may apply to your office. If I hear anything I will get it out to you but it may be on their website a day or so before I get it out.

I am beginning to hear talk of provisions in the relief bill passed today in the Senate. It still has to pass the House, go through Conference Committee, and get signed by the President but there is some talk about what we will be able to take out some small business loans and have them forgiven. Specifically, what I have heard is that loans taken out to cover staff and Dr payroll, rent, and some other qualified expenses for a period of 8 weeks may not need to be paid back. I have no doubt that qualifying for said loan forgiveness will be a tricky and involved process. It may be another week or so before we get any great information on this but I wanted to put it out there so you are all aware it may be coming. When it gets signed into law

someone much smarter than myself will put out guidelines on how to apply and get reimbursed and I will get you their information as soon as possible.

As always feel free to reach out to me with any concerns or questions you may have. I will do my best to get back to you all.

Respectfully, Brad Anderson