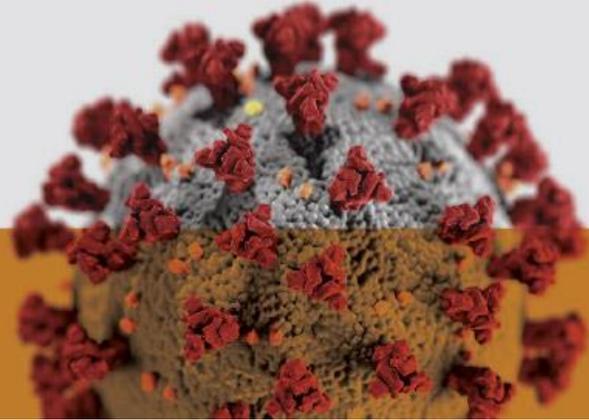




# COVID-19

## Message to State Leaders



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As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, I am committed to keeping you apprised of recent developments and our advocacy efforts on behalf of the nation's dental hygienists.

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### ADHA Task Force on Return to Work

There continue to be many unanswered questions about how to safely return to work, and the need for and availability of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). It is critical that we gather clear data to inform evidence-based guidance on these decisions. To this end, I am pleased to announce the formation of the, "ADHA Task Force on Return to Work". The Task Force will be chaired by JoAnn Gurenlian, RDH, MS, PhD, AFAAOM. The Task Force will review available COVID-19 guidance documents and policies, including but not limited to information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Occupational and Safety Health Act (OSHA), The Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP) and American Dental Association (ADA). The Task Force will provide a recommendation to the ADHA Board of Trustees to aid in policy development and association activities. A dedicated email address has been set up to provide input to the Task Force at [adhacovidtaskforce@adha.net](mailto:adhacovidtaskforce@adha.net). I look forward to sharing the results of their work in the coming weeks.

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### ADHA Advocacy Campaign Directed to the Nation's Governors

We are aware many states are preparing to reopen the economy, including some dental offices, as early as this week. We are hearing from hundreds of hygienists regarding their concerns over returning to work and uncertainty about the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to keep themselves, their patients, and colleagues safe. We know that access to appropriate PPE is a challenge many offices face and we need to unite and ensure our governors step up to support us and ensure access if offices are to reopen.

The American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) continues to support the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in recommending dental facilities postpone elective procedures, surgeries, and non-urgent dental visits, and prioritize urgent and emergency visits and procedures. We need your help to engage our community and have Governors act to ensure only emergency dental care be provided until we can ensure it is safe to return. We also need to urge our governors to ensure appropriate PPE is made available to dental offices so hygienists are safe when they return to work.

We will be launching this campaign in the next 24 hours and invite you to participate! There will be a link to the campaign on the ADHA COVID-19 Resource page and through ADHA communication channels.

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## Federal Advocacy Efforts

We remain steadfast in the need for proper PPE for dental hygienists and the entire dental team upon returning to work. We are working with the appropriate federal agencies and organizations asking that proper PPE for dental hygienists and the dental team be prioritized and made available to ensure the safety of the dental team, their families, and the patients they serve.

Be well.

Matt Crespín, MPH, RDH  
ADHA President

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