



COVID-19 Update for CDHA members **May 1, 2020**

CDHA is Here to Help

Read our latest updates: www.cdha.ca/safetyalerts

Email us: alerts@cdha.ca

Dear member,

COVID-19 Pandemic CDHA Member Survey

CDHA invites you to participate in a [short survey](#) assessing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the profession. Your responses will help prioritize CDHA's professional development activities and determine the need for new professional practice resources to support you in your return to work.

Provincial Re-Opening Announcements

As provinces announce their frameworks and timeframes for re-opening across the country, CDHA is actively reviewing and assessing relevant information for dental hygienists. We know that the priorities of many relate to the supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) and infection prevention and control (IPC) guidance.

In a recent meeting, and subsequent communications, with the Dental Hygiene Regulators of Canada (FDHRC), CDHA was informed that provincial regulatory bodies are currently evaluating evidence and updating IPC protocols to address changes to PPE, general office protocols and mitigation of aerosol production. CDHA recommends sharing your concerns and questions regarding a safe return to work with your provincial regulatory body.

Are you concerned about having difficult conversations when returning to work? CDHA is developing a series of videos to help dental hygienists communicate with their employers, co-workers, and clients. Stay tuned for their release.

THE CANADIAN DENTAL HYGIENISTS ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES HYGIÉNISTES DENTAIRE

1122 Wellington St W, Ottawa, ON K1Y 2Y7 Tel. 613-224-5515 Fax 613-224-7283
info@cdha.ca Toll Free 1-800-267-5235 www.cdha.ca

COVID-19 and CDHA's Professional Liability Insurance Policy

CDHA members have been asking questions about their professional liability insurance with regards to COVID-19. If you are delivering dental hygiene services and are worried about liability related to possible transmission of COVID-19 to your patients, please be assured that your CDHA professional liability insurance (PLI) policy is there to protect you.

In the policy, the definition of "injury" in the policy wording includes "disease" and the consequences that result from it.

As with professional practice generally, you are expected to practice safely and work within your scope of practice. During the current COVID-19 pandemic this means following the best practice guidelines and standards set by your regulatory body and workplace, particularly with respect to infection prevention, use of PPE, and safe delivery of care. If you disregard these guidelines, it could be argued that transmission of the virus was an expected or intended consequence of your decision, and your insurance coverage may not respond.

Please remember to practice safely to keep yourself and your clients protected in these difficult times.

Resources for Client Care During Office Closures

Making care calls at this time can be a good way to maintain the important relationships between dental hygienists and their clients. Because regular dental hygiene visits are not possible right now, clients' home care routines are even more important for keeping their teeth and gums healthy. CDHA has developed a [self-care tip sheet](#) to share with clients. In addition, we will soon be releasing resources for you on how to conduct care calls.

FREE Re-Released Webinars Launched Today

CDHA has re-released a selection of 6 popular webinars today. Topics include cannabis, product hazards, and dental implants. Once you register, you will have up to one year to access the content. [Crack open the vault!](#)

We understand that many members are concerned about return to work and providing safe and ethical care. CDHA will continue to provide updates as they become available.

~

**Please be well and take care of yourselves in this difficult time.
Everyone can do their part to slow COVID-19.**