



## **COVID-19 Update for CDHA members**

**June 24, 2020**

This week marks the final edition of CDHA's COVID-19 Weekly Updates. We hope that the information provided over the past three months has been helpful for dental hygienists in navigating the federal and provincial responses to the pandemic. We will be continuing to provide COVID-19 related updates to members, but it will be on a less frequent schedule, based on new announcements or changes.

### **CDHA is Here to Help**

Read our latest updates: [www.cdha.ca/safetyalerts](http://www.cdha.ca/safetyalerts)

Email us: [alerts@cdha.ca](mailto:alerts@cdha.ca)

Dear member,

### **Mental Health and Addiction Support**

Homewood Health, CDHA's member and family assistance program (MFAP) provider, has been selected by Health Canada to be a principal partner in a fully-funded joint venture with Kids Help Phone and Stepped Care Solutions to build and deliver Wellness Together Canada ([wellnesstogether.ca](http://wellnesstogether.ca)), an online portal for all Canadians impacted by COVID-19 to access mental health and addiction support. These supportive services range from information and resources to self-directed e-mental health apps and peer support to live telephonic or video counselling sessions. CDHA encourages all members in need of mental health and addiction support to access this program. Of course, CDHA's MFAP will continue to be there for you should you require assistance beyond what this federal government funded program delivers.

### **COVID-19 Recordkeeping**

As you know, there have been many changes to the requirements for personal protective equipment (PPE) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. CDHA reminds dental hygienists to document the use of PPE worn during the appointment (mask level, mask type, face shield, gown type, etc.) as well as disinfection protocols (product used, fallow time, etc.).

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THE CANADIAN DENTAL HYGIENISTS ASSOCIATION  
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## **Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) Update**

As the dental profession continues to re-open across Canada, the federal government has extended CERB for an additional 8 weeks. It has come to our attention that the Canada Revenue Agency has begun investigations of businesses, including dental offices, to determine if employees are returning to work when re-called from layoffs. It may be timely to review the [Questions and Answers on the Canada Emergency Response Benefit](#) to ensure you have continued eligibility. If you determine you have been overpaid, please read the [Return or repay the Canada Emergency Response Benefit \(CERB\)](#) page.

## **Update for Expectant and New Mothers**

This week CDHA engaged in a meeting with the Director of Policy from the office of Minister Carla Qualtrough, Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion. We informed government staff about the key safety and eligibility concerns CDHA has been hearing from members who are new mothers or expecting. Government staff were very receptive to hearing about the concerns from the oral health sector and assured us that they are focused on developing a response that gets it right.

We did receive clarification to address questions related to EI/CERB, that income from **maternity/parental special benefit** programs will count towards the minimum \$5,000 income requirement for CERB, however **EI sickness or regular does not count**. Those with safety concerns should continue to have direct conversations with their employers.

## **Send Your Letter as a Local Dental Hygienist!**

Join the campaign to raise awareness about PPE needs for the safe reopening of dental hygiene services in your province or territory. Over 1000 letters have been sent across Canada since the campaign started. [Click here](#) to send your letter today!

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