



COVID-19 Update for CDHA members **May 27, 2020**

CDHA is Here to Help

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

Email us: alerts@cdha.ca

Dear member,

Navigating Your Return to Work

CDHA understands your concerns about providing excellent dental hygiene services in a safe environment.

It is important to recognize that CDHA does not have a mandate to create infection prevention and control protocols. As much as we all would prefer national infection control protocols, due to the way healthcare is structured in Canada, ultimately it is the responsibility of each provincial regulatory body to develop IPAC guidelines.

CDHA continues to update links to COVID-related evidence as it becomes available and has developed resources to help our members navigate a safe return to work. Continue to do your research, stay informed, and support your conversations with evidence. Use the AARCH formula discussed in the Introductory Video: Developing Your Mindset of the [Conversations to Build Collaborative Workplaces video series](#) to prepare yourself for difficult workplace conversations.

Professional Liability Coverage

CDHA and BMS continue to recommend that practitioners follow the specific public health guidelines and occupational health and safety requirements from their provincial or territorial government, Health Officer, and regulatory body. We also recommend that professionals practicing in a public setting adhere to the protocols established within their workplaces.

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

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Given the way healthcare is structured in Canada, there can be variability between provinces, and practitioners in one province may be expected to follow governmental directions and regulatory standards that differ from their colleagues in another province. While the practitioner should be following the recommendations of their provincial/territorial government and the best practice guidelines and standards set by their regulatory body and workplace, they could also use their professional judgement if they wish to practice more conservatively in order to further enhance patient safety and improve infection control.

Decisions about how coverage will respond to claims relating to COVID-19 will be made by the insurer based on the facts of each claim, the policy at issue and applicable law. As is standard on Professional Liability insurance (PLI) policies, there is an exclusion on the CDHA PLI policy for claims arising out of injury, expected or intended from the standpoint of the Insured. In a claim circumstance, if the insured did not abide by their provincial governmental/regulatory recommendations for safe delivery of care, it could be argued that transmission of the virus was an expected or intended consequence of that decision and the insurance coverage may not respond.

New BMS Resource Package

As your broker, BMS is here to help. BMS has developed [The COVID-19 Insurance Resource Package](#), which includes answers to commonly asked questions, articles and templates to support you in this next phase of returning to practice. BMS is your partner in this process. Please contact them if you have any questions related to professional liability insurance.

Price Gouging and Counterfeit PPE

CDHA continues to advocate for the distribution of PPE to dental and dental hygiene offices. We are aware that some companies are price gouging and some may be distributing counterfeit products. CDHA encourages members to be very careful when ordering PPE. Tips and recommendations for authorized sites and products can be found from [Personal protective equipment against COVID-19, Government of Canada: Specifications for COVID-19](#), [the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention](#), and the [FDA Appendix A: Authorized Respirators list](#).

COVID-19 Employment Q&A

Stuart Rudner, employment lawyer and mediator at Rudner Law, answers your pressing questions about returning to work. The [downloadable PDF](#) and the [video](#) are both now available.

Webinar Coming Soon: Redefining IPAC: It's All About the New Routine

Sponsored by Colgate | Release date: June 3

Presenter: Michelle Aubé (Simmonds), RDH, CDA

The Coronavirus pandemic has brought the dental hygiene profession to a halt. As a result, routine practice of infection prevention and control (IPAC) requires redefining with an expansion of risk management and personal protective equipment (PPE) elements. This presentation will examine viable solutions to continue the delivery of therapeutic and preventive oral health care while using a safe and effective approach.

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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.*