



COVID-19 Update for CDHA Members **August 12, 2021**

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Dear member,

Study on Efficacy of Portable Air Cleaners and Masks

This [study](#) from the CDC evaluated the efficacy of portable high-efficiency air (HEPA) purifiers with the use of masks at reducing exposure to aerosols. The authors noted that a 65% reduction in aerosol exposure was obtained using HEPA filters alone, 72% reduction when using masks alone, and 90% reduction when using both.

Third Doses of the Vaccine for the Immunocompromised

Support is growing for immunocompromised patients, including those who are organ transplant recipients, people on cancer treatments, and people living with rheumatologic conditions, HIV and leukemia, to receive a third dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, as this [article in Medscape](#) illustrates. Studies in patients with high levels of immunosuppression have shown a substantial boost in antibody response following a third dose of a COVID vaccine – a highly encouraging result for *all* immunocompromised patients.

Update on COVID-19 in Canada: Epidemiology and Modelling

The Public Health Agency of Canada has posted its latest [epidemiology and modelling document](#). It shows the rates of vaccinations across age groups, the recent rise in COVID-19 cases and the decrease in hospitalizations.

THE CANADIAN DENTAL HYGIENISTS ASSOCIATION
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Update on the Delta Variant and the Vaccinated

[New research](#) shared in an internal document by the CDC, indicates that the Delta variant is more infectious than its predecessors, and is at the same level as the chicken pox. There is also new research that shows that those who are vaccinated have the same viral load than those who are unvaccinated, although for a shorter time period. The effectiveness of the vaccines is not as high as initially thought, although still offers substantial protection against severe disease and hospitalizations. It is important to remain vigilant within the dental office setting, particularly the staff room. Links to the studies:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7031e2.htm>
- <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.07.31.21261387v1>
- <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.07.19.21260808v2>

Reminders on How to prevent transmission of COVID-19

There are several factors that contribute to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. These include:

- Wearing a face shield over your mask when providing dental hygiene services
- Using an HVE during AGP's to reduce aerosols
- Always wearing a mask outside the dental hygiene operatory
- Having good in-office air quality by having an HVAC assessment done to determine the number of air changes per hour and using air purifiers
- Proper doffing techniques when removing face shields and masks to prevent cross-contamination

Vaccine hesitancy: Root causes and possible solutions

The dialogue on vaccine hesitancy is still top of mind for health care providers and the public. Read about its root causes in an [editorial](#) by Salme Lavigne in the most recent issue of the Canadian Journal of Dental Hygiene and learn ways that dental hygienists in Canada can help increase vaccine acceptance.

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

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