

COVID-19: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Practice guidance for dental hygienists

Where can I find the federal government's advice to health professionals?

Refer to the Government of Canada's updates on [what health professionals need to know](#) about coronaviruses, the spectrum of illness, transmission, detection and reporting, infection prevention and control, and treatment.

Should I be checking with officials in my own province/territory?

Provincial public health authorities and regulators are responding in different ways to the outbreak within their jurisdictions. As regulated health professionals, dental hygienists must pay close attention to their provincial public health authorities, provincial government, and professional regulators.

What is CDHA's practice advice for dental hygienists?

Click [here](#) to read CDHA's one-page guide on client screening procedures, infection prevention and control protocols, and mask usage.

What are the transmission routes for COVID-19 in dental clinics?

Click [here](#) to read about possible transmission routes for COVID-19 in dental clinics.

What type of masks should I be using?

Find recommended risk assessment guidelines for mask usage [here](#).

I am being told to wear one mask per day. What can I do?

Compliance with infection prevention and control guidelines is imperative (one mask per client).

Know your worker rights and responsibilities and the steps you can take to remediate unsafe work conditions or exercise your right to refuse unsafe work. Find a list of occupational health and safety contacts by province/territory [here](#).

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Is prescreening my clients based on travel history enough?

As cases of COVID-19 continue to rise, community transmission becomes a concern. Once community transmission begins, it is difficult to know who a carrier of the virus is.

Which countries are most affected by the outbreak?

The [World Health Organization](#) map breaks down the number of confirmed cases and deaths by country, territory or region. Other maps and dashboards are available online.

I am worried about my own susceptibility to COVID-19.

Immunocompromised dental hygienists or others who are potentially more susceptible to contracting COVID-19 must make a decision that reflects their unique situation based on their professional judgment, the best evidence available, and consideration of the advice of public health experts.