



## COVID-19 Update for CDHA Members December 3, 2020

### 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,

### Stay Safe

Throughout the pandemic, CDHA has been committed to supporting dental hygienists across Canada. With the recent surge in COVID-19 cases in most provinces, we are seeing provincial governments implement new health and safety measures. We want to reassure you that the infection prevention and control protocols mandated for use in dental and dental hygiene offices have proven effective. There are no known reports of COVID-19 transmission from client to dental hygienist or vice versa. The reports we have read have, however, identified cases of COVID-19 transmission from staff member to staff member. It is important to be vigilant at all times within the office setting and follow mask, hand sanitization, and physical distancing protocols, particularly in the lunchroom.

### Pre-Procedural Rinse Research

A number of provincial COVID-19 infection prevention and control guidelines include a recommendation to use a pre-procedural rinse. [Research](#) has shown that, while a povidone-iodine antiseptic rinse did inactivate COVID-19, a hydrogen peroxide antiseptic rinse had ineffective virucidal results. A [systematic review](#) published in the *Journal of Hospital Infection* supported the findings that using a pre-procedural rinse of hydrogen peroxide produces no virucidal effects. A recent document from Public Health Ontario states that hydrogen peroxide should no longer be recommended as a pre-procedural mouthrinse.

THE CANADIAN DENTAL HYGIENISTS ASSOCIATION  
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## **Latest Advocacy Efforts**

This week CDHA is sharing the results of our latest rapid polling of independent dental hygienists regarding PPE access and costs for their practices with our constituent provinces and various government officials. We are asking the federal government to work with the provinces, territories, and oral health system stakeholders to ensure adequate PPE is dedicated to oral health professionals in each jurisdiction.

CDHA is also encouraging government officials to recognize dental hygienists as essential primary health care providers during this public health emergency. This classification would give dental hygienists access to government supplies of PPE and priority access to vaccines alongside other essential workers, both of which will help to ensure the health and safety of dental hygienists and the patients/clients that they serve.

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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.*

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