

Steve Sisolak
Governor

Richard Whitley, MS
Director



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Public and Behavioral Health
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Lisa Sherych
Administrator

Ihsan Azzam, Ph.D., M.D.
Chief Medical Officer

MEMORANDUM

March 24, 2020

To: All Licensed Dental Providers in Nevada

From: Antonina Capurro, D.M.D, M.P.H, M.B.A
Nevada State Dental Health Officer

Re: Routine, Non-Essential Visits, Procedures and Surgeries

The State of Nevada, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is committed to taking critical steps to ensure public health and safety. In light of on-going COVID-19 concerns and Governor Sisolak's recent State of Emergency Declaration to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the State of Nevada, Department of Health and Human Services, is releasing the following statement: All providers of dental services (including dentists and hygienists) in Nevada should follow the current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines which state "that dental facilities postpone elective procedures, surgeries, and non-urgent dental visits, and prioritize urgent and emergency visits and procedures now and for the coming several weeks." 1

A. Dental Visits, Procedures, and Surgeries:

A.1. While the practice of dentistry is considered an essential service in the State of Nevada, all routine, non-essential dental procedures/surgeries in Nevada should be postponed for public health and safety from the date of this Notice. The situation is evolving and is subject to change at the discretion of the Governor and Nevada Chief Medical Officer. Non-compliance may be viewed as unprofessional conduct which is subject to disciplinary action by the Nevada State Board of Dental Examiners.

A.2. The only dental care to be provided at this time should be emergency or urgent in nature that specifically addresses oral pain and/or oral infection management. Dentists should prioritize seeing only patients with dental emergencies defined as: "Dental care related to the relief of pain and management of infection."

A.3. CDC COVID-19 infection control guidelines are to be strictly followed in order to minimize the possibility of disease transmission through the production of aerosols during emergency or urgent dental treatments.

A.4. Each provider of dental services shall immediately notify its clients and families of this Notice.

B. Liberty Dental Plan has expanded its Teledentistry Program for **all** Nevada Medicaid Dental recipients across the State who are experiencing dental pain or a potential dental emergency to alleviate the burden that dental emergencies would place on hospital emergency departments. Further information is available at: <https://client.libertydentalplan.com/NVMedicaid>

C. Dental facilities in possession of personal protective equipment that is not required for the provision of critical health care services are requested to undertake an inventory of such supplies by no later than March 30, 2020 and prepare to send the list to the Nevada Dental Association for statewide re-distribution.

Collective actions taken by the dental community can help deter the proliferation of the COVID-19 virus in Nevada. By rescheduling elective procedures, dental health professionals can do our part to prevent community spread, as well as help to preserve the limited supply of personal protective equipment that is critical for frontline healthcare personnel responding to this pandemic.

We stand united with you, your staff, and your patients in a commitment for a healthier Nevada.
For the most up-to-date information and support, visit our website: <https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/>

Reference: 1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, March 20). CDC Recommendation: Postpone Non-Urgent Dental Procedures, Surgeries, and Visits. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/statement-COVID.html>