



# GUIDANCE ON COVID-19 FOR DENTAL HEALTHCARE PERSONNEL

Are you experiencing **COVID-19 symptoms**?

They include:

- » Fever  
( $T \geq 100.0^{\circ}\text{F}$  or  $37.8^{\circ}\text{C}$ )  
(Without having taken any fever-reducing medications, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen.)
- » Loss of smell or taste
- » Cough
- » Muscle aches
- » Sore throat
- » Shortness of breath
- » Chills
- » New or unusual headache
- » Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or loss of appetite

## YES SYMPTOMS

Affirmative Response to COVID-19 Symptoms and/or those testing positive for COVID-19

### FOLLOW CDC GUIDELINES

1. Do not come to work while ill.
2. Even with mild symptoms, cease patient care activities.
3. Notify supervisor **and** local health department.
4. Arrange for medical evaluation and **COVID-19 testing** if not already completed.
5. **Self-isolate** for at least **10 days since symptoms appeared and at least 3 days since recovery.**
6. Follow advice from contact tracer and local public health authority.

**Find COVID-19 Testing in Nevada:**  
[NV Health Response](#)

## NO SYMPTOMS

Have you had prolonged close **contact**<sup>1</sup> with any person (patient, co-worker, family member, etc.) with confirmed or suspected COVID-19?

YES

- Were you wearing a **respirator or facemask**?
- Were you wearing all recommended PPE (i.e., gown, gloves, eye protection, respirator) while performing an aerosol-generating procedure?
- Were you wearing eye protection if the person with COVID-19 was not wearing a cloth face covering or facemask?

NO

YES

Since you were wearing PPE and have no symptoms, you may continue working without restrictions.

NO

- Pre-Screen: Your employers should measure your temperature and assess symptoms prior to you starting work. Ideally, temperature checks should happen before you enter the facility.
- Regular Monitoring: Self-monitor under the supervision of your employer's occupational health program.
- Wear a Mask: You should wear a face mask at all times while in the workplace and in the community.
- Social Distance: Maintain 6 feet of distance from others and practice social distancing as duties permit in the workplace.
- Disinfect and Clean workspaces: Clean and disinfect all areas such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment routinely.
- Hand washing: Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

- Watch for symptoms **AND**
- **Quarantine** yourself for 14 days from last day of exposure **AND**
- Get tested 7-14 days after exposure to avoid false negative results
  - Regardless of a negative test result or lack of symptoms, complete the 14-day quarantine period before returning to work.
  - If test is positive, isolate until deemed no longer infectious by contact tracer.

<sup>1</sup> Data are insufficient to precisely define the duration of time that constitutes a prolonged exposure. Until more is known about transmission risks, it is reasonable to consider an exposure of 15 minutes or more as prolonged. However, any duration should be considered prolonged if the exposure occurred during performance of an aerosol generating procedure. Data are limited for the definition of close contact. For this guidance it is defined as: a) being within 6 feet of a person with confirmed COVID-19 or b) having unprotected direct contact with infectious secretions or excretions of the person with confirmed COVID-19. Determining the time period when the patient, visitor, or HCP with confirmed COVID-19 could have been infectious: 1. For individuals with confirmed COVID-19 who developed symptoms, consider the exposure window to be 2 days before symptom onset through the time period when the individual meets criteria for [discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions](#).

## **Resources to Find COVID-19 Testing in Nevada:**

### **NV Health Response:**

Website: <https://nvhealthresponse.nv.gov/find-covid-19-testing-in-nevada/>

### **Southern Nevada Health District:**

Link to calendar of testing events: <https://www.southernnevadahealthdistrict.org/covid-19-testing-sites>

### **Washoe County Health District:**

Phone Number: 775-328-2427

Link to complete risk assessment and schedule testing: <https://aca.accela.com/WASHOE-COVID19/Welcome.aspx>

### **White Pine, Elko, Eureka, Lander, Humboldt and Pershing Counties:**

COVID-19 Hotline: 775-777-2507

The hotline is available Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm (closed from noon to 1pm for lunch).

### **Additional Notes:**

1. While the DHHS Technical Bulletin, [\*Guidance for Public Health Management of Healthcare Personnel\(HCP\) with Potential Exposure to Patients with \(COVID-19\) in Healthcare Setting\*](#) based on CDC guidance allows exposed, asymptomatic HCPs to work while utilizing appropriate PPE. This guidance **does not apply** to HCP's in the dental arena.
2. The [CDC recommends](#) implementing sick leave policies for dental health care personnel that are flexible, non-punitive, and consistent with public health guidance.
3. The ADA has provided additional resources for dental offices: [Steps to Take if a Patient Reports COVID-19 Exposure After Treatment](#) and [What to Do if Someone on Your Staff Tests Positive for COVID-19](#).
4. Dental practices are advised to review this information with team members and have a communication plan in place for patients should the office team members be quarantined, or patients experience exposure.