



20 March 2020

Dear Idaho dental hygiene colleagues,

Your IDHA Board of Direction is reaching out to you regarding the COVID-19 virus and how it may be affecting you as an employee. As your professional organization, IDHA is hearing your concerns and wants you to know we are here and available to support you in any way we can. Your health and the health of those around you are the top priority.

We have heard your concerns that some of your practices are remaining open at this time. IDHA feels strongly that oral health care providers should be following the recommendations put forth by the CDC, ADA, ISDA and ADHA - that dental practices should be stopping any non-emergent patient care. Those recommendations can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/statement-COVID.html>  
<https://www.ada.org/en/publications/ada-news/2020-archive/march/ada-recommending-dentists-postpone-elective-procedures>. ADA has provided this resource to help providers determine what constitutes as a dental emergency: [https://www.ada.org/en/publications/ada-news/2020-archive/march/ada-develops-guidance-on-dental-emergency-nonemergency-care?fbclid=IwAR2V7opdWGYCM6d1GbRSHgoYZ5jJQEK93i\\_26WqsiumJFxZfmHyjfaFZW-4](https://www.ada.org/en/publications/ada-news/2020-archive/march/ada-develops-guidance-on-dental-emergency-nonemergency-care?fbclid=IwAR2V7opdWGYCM6d1GbRSHgoYZ5jJQEK93i_26WqsiumJFxZfmHyjfaFZW-4)

Though IDHA and ADHA are unable to mandate practice closures, you have the option to reach out to local government with your requests and concerns. ADHA has provided this resource to reach out to our Idaho Governor: <https://www.votervoicenet.net/ADHA/campaigns/72583/respond>

ADHA President Matt Crespín has sent a letter to President Trump, asking that dental team members aren't overlooked as healthcare providers in relief benefits. This letter and other resources are available on the ADHA website: <https://www.adha.org/>

For those wondering about unemployment benefits, it is our understanding that employers will not be penalized for claims made specifically as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. You can go here for a FAQ resource about COVID-19 specific unemployment benefits: <https://labor.idaho.gov/dnn/COVID-19>

The federal government is working to help those businesses that have/will close temporarily due to COVID-19. The site, [www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/6201/text](http://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/6201/text) lines out the article called "Families First Coronavirus Response Act".

Please watch the Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association Facebook page and website for updates. The ADHA.org website is a great resource as well. We will continue to post updates as we receive them. Feel free to contact me with any specific questions: [ericagkleiss@gmail.com](mailto:ericagkleiss@gmail.com)

Respectfully,

Erica Craven, IDHA President