

To registrants of the College of Dental Hygienists of BC, the College of Dental Technicians of BC, the College of Dental Surgeons of BC, and the College of Denturists of BC:

To support you in continuing to provide oral health care safely during the COVID-19 pandemic, CDHBC, CDTBC, CDSBC, and CDBC have worked collaboratively to update the joint COVID-19 guidance document for oral health care providers.

Please click the link below to read the updated document:

**[Infection Prevention and Control & Oral Health Care During the COVID-19 Pandemic \(December 23, 2021\)](#)**

As always, this COVID-19-specific guidance is to be considered in conjunction with existing oral health care regulatory standards and guidance for infection prevention and control (IPAC) and aligned with provincial governmental authorities including the Ministry of Health, the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, the Provincial Infection Control Network of British Columbia (PICNeT) and WorkSafeBC.

We anticipate that COVID-specific guidance for oral health care providers in BC will remain in effect until the pandemic is over. As COVID-19 continues to circulate in our communities, you will note that the guidance remains largely unchanged. This set of revisions was designed to minimize the need for further updates by referring to other relevant authorities wherever possible.

Key updates in this version relate to:

- PPE (recommendation for all staff, patients and visitors to wear medical masks in the facility per updated direction from the Province: [Mask use in health-care facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic](#))
- disease description
- pre-appointment screening of COVID-19 symptoms (updated to reference the BCCDC's symptom list)
- patients vulnerable to severe expression of COVID-19
- temperature measurement
- pre-procedure rinses
- return to work following travel (removed – refer to jurisdictional requirements)
- aerosol-generating medical procedures
- facility management
- scheduling appointments and communicating with patients

The document linked above replaces the August 18, 2020 version, titled *Oral Health Care During Phases 2 and 3 of the COVID-19 Response*. A comparison document showing the markup of changes between the August 2020 and December 2021 guidance documents is available [here](#).