



COLLEGE OF DENTAL HYGIENISTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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May 15, 2020 – Follow Up Message

Dear Registrant:

Following guidance sent by CDHBC to registrants this afternoon about a return to the provision of in-person non-essential care, the BC Centre for Disease Control has since published a new document called "[Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Community-Based Allied Health Care Providers in Clinic Settings.](#)"

This document contains BCCDC's authoritative guidance with respect to the use of N95 masks. The document outlines that N95 masks are only required for aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMPs) with clients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. Where there is low incidence and prevalence of COVID-19, additional PPE over and above that required for normal precautions is **not** required.

We understand that the information provided earlier did not contain this guidance as we had not received the final BCCDC document. The oral health regulator's guidance for the phase 2 return is meant to be a living document that will be updated with the most current information provided. As such the [Transitioning Oral Healthcare to Phase 2 of the COVID-19 Response Plan](#) document we distributed earlier today has been updated to reflect this change (please see section 7 b ii: "Exposure prevention" and "9. Schedule of Changes").

We have also updated the [BC Health Regulators Guidance for Community Health Care Services](#) document to include the link to the new BCCDC document.

The College understands that there are questions and concerns from registrants regarding the required level of PPE as this return begins. As stated above, BCCDC is the authoritative source for these recommendations and as such we are taking our direction from them. We encourage all members of the oral health care team to have dialogue regarding the guidance that has been offered and to make decisions that consider their own unique circumstances while ensuring that minimum guidelines have been met.

Again, we understand how challenging this situation is. The College will continue to be diligent in its mandate to protect the public and will closely monitor the situation as we carefully carve a path to a 'new normal'. We thank you for your patience and professionalism.

Be Kind. Be Safe.

Jennifer Lawrence
Registrar/CEO