



COLLEGE OF DENTAL HYGIENISTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

FAQ on COVID-19 and the Pacific Dental Conference

CDHBC wishes to acknowledge and thank the College of Dental Surgeons of BC (CDSBC) for the collaboration of the content of this FAQ.

On March 16, 2020 the Provincial Health Officer stated that at least four cases of COVID-19 are related to the 2020 Pacific Dental Conference, and that all conference attendees are to self-isolate until March 22. Dr. Bonnie Henry said they should not be at work, at school, or around others.

Following that announcement, CDHBC issued an [urgent notice](#) to our registrants about the need to self-isolate, and that non-essential dental hygiene care is to be suspended immediately.

We have since received many messages asking for clarification or additional guidance. We have grouped the questions by topic below and will be updating them on an ongoing basis. Our priority is to begin with the topics that are most critical to the immediate need to contain the spread of COVID-19.

It is also important to note that the federal government is urging all Canadians to practice social distancing.

Staying up to date

The COVID-19 situation is changing quickly and the Minister of Health, Adrian Dix, and Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, are making regular joint statements on this topic.

The joint statements about COVID-19 from the Provincial Health Officer and the Minister of Health are available [here](#).

You can hear audio recordings of the joint press conferences on the BC Government's [SoundCloud Account](#). For the March 16 press conference, Dr. Henry's remarks about the Pacific Dental Conference begin at 2:39.

Where can I get answers to my questions about COVID-19?

The Province has created a dedicated phone service to provide British Columbians non-medical information about COVID-19. This includes the latest information on travel recommendations and social distancing, as well as access to support and resources from the provincial and federal governments.

Minister Dix advised that British Columbians can reach service representatives seven days a week, from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., by calling 1 888 COVID19. Information is available in more than 110 languages.

Self-isolation for attendees of the 2020 Pacific Dental Conference

I wasn't at the Pacific Dental Conference the entire time. Do I still need to self-isolate?

Yes. Anyone who attended the 2020 Pacific Dental Conference – regardless of dates – is expected to follow the direction of the Provincial Health Officer to self-isolate until March 22, 2020.

What actions do I need to take to self-isolate?

Self-isolation means staying home and not going to work or school, and monitoring for symptoms for a period of 14 days.

The instructions from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer and the BC CDC are:

- For the health of your family, friends and community, try to stay at home.
- Do not go to work or school.
- Do not go to public areas, including places of worship, stores, shopping malls and restaurants.
- Limit visitors to your home.
- Cancel or reschedule non-urgent appointments.
- Do not take buses, taxis or ride-sharing where you would be in contact with others.
- It is okay to have family/friends drop off food or you can use delivery/pick up services for errands such as grocery shopping.

There is additional guidance provided in this [fact sheet](#).

I attended the Pacific Dental Conference and am now in self-isolation. Does this mean my family/the people I live with also need to self-isolate? What about my colleagues at work who did not attend the conference?

We have been advised by the Office of the Provincial Health Officer that the requirement for self-isolation applies only to the people who attended the conference.

Family members of conference attendee do not have to self-isolate. Co-workers of conference attendees also do not have to self-isolate. The isolation period applies only to the primary contact, who is the conference attendee.

How do I self-isolate if I believe I have COVID-19?

The Public Health Agency of Canada has provided specific instructions for the steps you are expected to take in a fact sheet called "[Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): How to isolate at home when you have COVID-19.](#)"

The fact sheet is also available as a PDF [here](#).