



State of Nebraska Board of Dentistry

Nebraska Board of Dentistry

STATEMENT REGARDING DENTAL OFFICES RETURNING TO ROUTINE/ELECTIVE PROCEDURES MAY 4th, NATIONAL GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS, AND THE COORDINATED COMMUNICATION FROM THE NEBRASKA BOARD OF DENTISTRY, THE NEBRASKA STATE DENTAL DIRECTOR AND THE NEBRASKA DENTAL ASSOCIATION.

Each state has the responsibility to determine when to resume dental care, even to the point of providing county by county approval. The Nebraska governor's office has agreed to May 4th as the date when dental offices state wide can resume routine/elective dental treatment by observing increased infection control guidance as provided by the Nebraska Dental Association's "Interim Guidance for Minimizing Risk of COVID-19 Transmission." This is an assimilation of recommendations utilizing national guidance documents from the ADA, CDC, CMS, OSHA and others.

The Board of Dentistry recommends that the Nebraska Dental Association Interim Guidance (first release 22 April 2020 and to be periodically updated) be adhered to as much as possible as we return to our offices. While the NDA Interim Guidance is not included in State regulations, the Board of Dentistry recommends that dental offices follow this professional advice. Screening patients by phone and in the office offers at least some assurance that we are not providing a point of contagion for COVID 19. Elevated levels of PPE and advanced Infection Control practices will ensure the safety of our patients, staff and providers. The decision to delay opening, open in a phased approach or fully reopen is a choice to be made by each individual dental practice or program. Guidance and recommendations are being provided to help the dental team achieve a safe working environment for patient care.

The Nebraska Dental Association, the State Dental Director and the Board of Dentistry have all been conferring on the issue of office openings in an attempt to provide a consistent message on recommendations about infection control protocols and PPE. The COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented event and we are all experiencing something new in patient care. In the near future, more specific information will continue to be developed which provides enough protection during dental care without wasting valuable resources.

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