

Division of Public Health
Curtis State Office Building
1000 SW Jackson St., Suite 300
Topeka, KS 66612-1368



Phone: 785-296-1086
www.kdheks.gov

Lee A. Norman, M.D., Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

April 30, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

There is no way any of us could have foreseen COVID-19 Pandemic and its impact on all of us personally, professionally and economically. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Bureau of Oral Health would like to thank all of you for being so adaptable during this time. I truly appreciate each of you for doing your part in keeping our communities safe during this pandemic.

To aid dentists who may be reopening their practices when the Executive Order #20-24, Stay-At-Home orders are lifted, the ADA has developed interim guidance for minimizing risk of COVID-19 transmission. The following guidelines were developed to assist dentists in making that decision, as well as to encourage a concerted effort in making the reopening of dental offices the safest environment possible for patients, staff and dentist. The ADA presents these [guidelines](#) not as mandates, but as recommendations to aid dental teams in the reopening of their offices. Additional guidance documents from the ADA, CDC, KDB and KDA will likely be issued.

The decision to reopen a dental office or remain closed, once the order is lifted, is a decision to be made by each individual dental practice in consultation with any county orders. The safety of patients, dentists and dental team members has been and always will be the Bureau of Oral Health's utmost concern. Dentists should exercise professional judgment and carefully consider the availability of appropriate PPE to minimize risk of virus transmission. The longer dental practices remain closed to preventive care and treatment for early forms of dental disease, the more likely that patients' untreated disease will progress, increasing the complexity and cost for treatment down the road as well as cause our patients additional hardship.

Once again, thank you for your efforts to contain and minimize the spread of COVID-19. Please do not hesitate to contact the Bureau of Oral Health at KBOH@ks.gov for any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Dayna M. Brinckman DDS., CHCEF
Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Director, Bureau of Oral Health
785-296-6536
www.kdheks.gov/ohi/index.html